

APPENDIX J

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Public Hearing

On January 26, 2001, the Potholes Final Environmental Impact Statement (Potholes FEIS) was released for public review. Due to the public's heavy response pertaining to proposed closure of existing portions of the Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Area, the comment period was extended to April 28, 2001. During this time a public hearing and several Ad Hoc and concerned group meetings were held. In April, two public protests and one support rally regarding the closure of the Yellow Zone occurred at the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) office in Ephrata, Washington.

Reclamation conducted a Potholes FEIS public hearing on March 13, 2001, at the Midway Learning Center in Moses Lake, Washington, to hear and record the public's comments. The hearing consisted of two sessions (from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) and was fully documented by a court reporter. Approximately 150 people attended the sessions. Of those, 29 individuals made statements for the public record. The comments ranged from concern over mosquito and noxious weed problems to personal watercraft control in the study area. Most comments reflected concern about the proposed limitations of ORV use in the Yellow Zone. Copies of the recorded comments may be obtained from the Reclamation office in Ephrata, Washington. The following people made comments at the meeting:

Penny Archer	Allan Sweet	Lance Cornell	Joe Smalley	Mick Hansen
Jim Cole	Leo Pfeifer	Ross Lingenfelter	Rocky Cassiano	William Lowe
Ed Stubington	Chad Hill	Randy Elledge	Dick Hansen	Kay Smith
Frances Jones	Rich Archer	Jake Jacobson	Dave McMains	Frank Holdren
Tracy Hayden	Jim Bise	John Lewandowski Jr	Jim Thompson	Anthony DeGado
Cory Carpenter	Lyle Labes	Tom Hendrickson	Constance Bendickson	

Reclamation conducted an agency meeting, on May 7, 2001, attended by representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Grant County Sheriffs Office. The purpose of the meeting was for the administering agencies to consider modifying proposed acreage reduction of the ORV Yellow Zone, based on the comments received at the public hearing. Individuals from Grant County discussed personnel limitations and budget constraints of the agencies to adequately manage present jurisdictions. WDFW and Reclamation expressed the need to balance habitat preservation with public demand for recreation use within the study area. After the suggestion of various management options, Reclamation informed the group they would present the findings to Reclamation's regional manager.

The participating agencies met again, on June 4, 2001, to discuss a modified Preferred Alternative for the ORV Yellow Zone. Agreement from the user groups, agencies, and jurisdictional entities modified the Preferred Alternative to say, "Close 919 acres of the 1,459 acre Lower Crab Creek Arm Management Area (Yellow Zone) to motor vehicle travel and ORV use year-round. Maintain as seasonally open (July 1 to October 1) 540 acres of the 1,459 acre Yellow Zone."

The vegetation components in the seasonally open portion of the 1,459 acre Yellow Zone as compared to the permanently closed portion are:

- Exposed and/or seasonally covered with water - 276 acres open; 479 closed
- Grassland - 26 acres open; 48 acres closed
- Riparian Forest - 3 acres open; 28 acres closed
- Riparian Shrub - 187 acres open; 155 closed
- Shrub Grass - 6 acres open; 32 acres closed
- Shrubland - 18 acres open; 102 acres closed
- Emergent Wetlands - 22 acres open; 75 acres closed

These changes do not constitute a substantive change in the impacts of the Preferred Alternative, which still provides for a balance of resource management and recreation use at Potholes Reservoir.

Public and Agency Comment Letters

112 individual letters, commenting on the FEIS, were received. In addition, 5 form letters were submitted. A single copy of each form letter and Reclamation's response is included in this section. Attachment A lists the names of people who signed each form letter.

The comment letters are presented in the order shown in Table J-1. All comment letters are presented and then are followed by all the responses. To aid the reader, the first page of the letter and the first page of the response to the letter are identified in Table J-1.

Table J-1
List of Those Commenting

Letter Number		Page Number	
		Letter	Response
Agencies - Federal, Regional, or Local Levels			
1	Environmental Protection Agency, Seattle, Washington	J-1	J-259
2	U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia	J-5	J-259
3	Fish and Wildlife Service, Ephrata, Washington	J-7	J-259
4	Washington State Department of Ecology, Spokane, Washington	J-9	J-260
5	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Ephrata, Washington	J-13	J-262
6	Grant County Mosquito Control District, Moses Lake, Washington	J-19	J-263
7	Grant County Sheriff's Office, Ephrata, Washington	J-21	J-264
8	Grant County Public Utility District, Ephrata, Washington	J-23	J-264
9	Grant County Board of Commissioners, Ephrata, Washington	J-27	J-264
10	City of Moses Lake, Mayor, Moses Lake, Washington	J-29	J-265
11	City of Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce, Moses Lake, WA	J-31	J-265
12	Representative Doc Hastings, 4 th Congressional District, WA	J-33	J-266
13	Senator Harold Hochstatter, 13 th Legislative District, Washington	J-35	J-266
14	Yakama Nation, Toppenish, Washington	J-37	J-267

Letter Number		Page Number	
		Letter	Response
Interested Organizations			
15	Black Hills Audubon Society, Beth Doglio and Jean MacGregor, Olympia, Washington	J-41	J-268
16	Blue Ribbon Coalition, Adena Cook, Idaho Falls, Idaho	J-43	J-269
17	Central Basin Audubon Society, Teri Pieper, Moses Lake, Washington	J-45	J-270
18	Columbia Basin Walleye Club, Roy Andrews, Moses Lake, Washington	J-47	J-270
19	Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel-Drive Association (form letter), Arlene Brooks, Auburn, Washington	J-49	J-270
20	(form letter), Jane and Pirie Grant	J-51	J-271
21	(form letter), Scott Ellis, East Wenatchee, Washington	J-53	J-271
22	Washougal Bunch 4x4 Club (form letter), Karen Ferguson, Washougal, Washington	J-55	J-271
23	(form letter), Jesse Stevens, Cheney, Washington	J-57	J-271

Individuals			
24	Joe Smalley, Keyport, Washington	J-59	J-271
25	Joe Smalley, Keyport, Washington	J-61	J-273
26	Joe Smalley, Keyport, Washington	J-63	J-274
27	Rich M. Archer, Moses Lake, Washington	J-67	J-274
28	Jason R. Huff, Poulsbo, Washington	J-69	J-275

Letter Number		Page Number	
		Letter	Response
Individuals (continued)			
29	Robert Brooks, Auburn, Washington	J-71	J-275
30	Frances Jones, Moses Lake, Washington	J-73	J-276
31	Carol Jensen, Longview, Washington	J-75	J-276
32	Russell F. Nickell, Moses Lake, Washington	J-77	J-277
33	Thomas Hoffman, Moses Lake, Washington	J-79	J-278
34	James and Harriett Clark, Moses Lake, Washington	J-81	J-279
35	Willie T. Lowe, Ephrata, Washington	J-83	J-279
36	Lottie Hemore	J-89	J-281
37	Mike Meseberg, Othello, Washington	J-91	J-281
38	Liz Tanke, Chelan, Washington	J-93	J-282
39	Mark Peter, Chelan, Washington	J-94	J-282
40	H. F. Adler, Moses Lake, Washington	J-95	J-282
41	Lynn Ennis, Keyport, Washington	J-97	J-282
42	Craig Olsen, Poulsbo, Washington	J-99	J-282
43	Mick Hansen, Moses Lake, Washington	J-101	J-282
44	John Anderson, Olalla, Washington	J-105	J-282
45	Rusan Peters, Moses Lake, Washington	J-107	J-282

Letter Number		Page Number	
		Letter	Response
Individuals (continued)			
46	Dick Hansen, Moses Lake, Washington	J-109	J-283
47	Mick Hansen, Moses Lake, Washington	J-111	J-283
48	Don Justesen, Moses Lake, Washington	J-113	J-283
49	Ross Lingenfelter, Moses Lake, Washington	J-115	J-284
50	Michael E. Dolfay, Wenatchee, Washington	J-117	J-284
51	David H. Barrett, Naches, Washington	J-119	J-284
52	Marilyn J. Sielaff, Ritzville, Washington	J-121	J-284
53	Ken Mutch, Moses Lake, Washington	J-123	J-285
54	Jim Cole, Ephrata, Washington	J-125	J-285
55	Teri J. Pieper, Moses Lake, Washington	J-127	J-285
56	Thomas H. Dagnor, Moses Lake, Washington	J-131	J-286
57	Kenneth Floyd	J-133	J-286
58	Amanda Smith, Moses Lake, Washington	J-135	J-286
59	Dirk and Rhonda Farrar, Olympia, Washington	J-137	J-286
60	Tina Moore, Moses Lake, Washington	J-139	J-286
61	Alvin Albro Haug, Wasden, Washington	J-141	J-286

Letter Number		Page Number	
		Letter	Response
Individuals (continued)			
62	Felicia Moore, Moses Lake, Washington	J-143	J-286
63	James Clark, Moses Lake, Washington	J-145	J-286
64	Hal Lindstrom, Ellensburg, Washington	J-147	J-286
65	Jane Grant, Othello, Washington	J-149	J-286
66	Harriett A. Clark, Moses Lake, Washington	J-151	J-286
67	Rick Pukis, Spokane, Washington	J-153	J-286
68	George and Mary Ann Macinko	J-155	J-287
69	Richard J. Rivers, Nine Mile Falls, Washington	J-159	J-287
70	Ken Douglass	J-161	J-287
71	Dennis and Linda O'Keefe, Ephrata, Washington	J-163	J-287
72	Curt Marchione	J-165	J-287
73	Ritch Carbaugh	J-167	J-287
74	Lynn Brownell, Fall City, Washington	J-169	J-287
75	Rik Lewis, North Bend, Washington	J-171	J-287
76	Les Hill, Jr.	J-173	J-287
77	Barbara Peters, Moses Lake, Washington	J-175	J-287
78	Kathy Taylor-Peters, Moses Lake, Washington	J-177	J-287

Letter Number		Page Number	
		Letter	Response
Individuals (continued)			
79	Mick Hansen, Moses Lake, Washington	J-179	J-287
80	Gary A. Main, Moses Lake, Washington	J-181	J-287
81	Jeff Keefe, Bellevue, Washington	J-183	J-287
82	Mr. and Mrs. Rick Westra, Quincy, Washington	J-185	J-288
83	Brian Miller, Jr., Everett, Washington	J-187	J-288
84	Unknown	J-189	J-288
85	Jeff, Carol, and Braiden Bellinger, Rock Island, Washington	J-191	J-288
86	Todd Munns and family	J-193	J-288
87	Todd Munns, Spokane, Washington	J-195	J-288
88	Joe Smalley	J-197	J-288
89	Erik Borg, Moses Lake, Washington	J-199	J-288
90	Gail and Walter Farrar, Ellensburg, Washington	J-201	J-288
91	Bernie Hermann, Moses Lake, Washington	J-203	J-288
92	Mark Hergert, Entiat, Washington	J-205	J-288
93	Tony Ahrns, Everett, Washington	J-207	J-288
94	Brett Bradley, Bremerton, Washington	J-209	J-288

Letter Number		Page Number	
		Letter	Response
Individuals (continued)			
95	Karen Livezey, Pasco, Washington	J-211	J-288
96	Frances Jones, Moses Lake, Washington	J-213	J-288
97	Terry Mitchell, Moses Lake, Washington	J-215	J-288
98	Tracy Miller, Moses Lake, Washington	J-217	J-288
99	David McMains, Moses Lake, Washington	J-219	J-288
100	Kay Smith, Moses Lake, Washington	J-221	J-288
101	L. D. Smith, Moses Lake, Washington	J-223	J-288
102	Cynthia Farrar, Olympia, Washington	J-225	J-288
103	Steve and Laura Becker	J-227	J-288
104	Daniel D. Peters, Moses Lake, Washington	J-229	J-288
105	Derek Bell, Moses Lake, Washington	J-231	J-288
106	Linda G. Lindlay, Moses Lake, Washington	J-233	J-288
107	Chris Ferrera, Spokane, Washington	J-235	J-288
108	Brandon Holland	J-237	J-288
109	Rich and Peny Archer, Moses Lake, Washington	J-239	J-288
110	Gale Hoerner and family, Walla Walla, Washington	J-241	J-288

Letter Number		Page Number	
		Letter	Response
Individuals (continued)			
111	Margaret Schiffner, Moses Lake, Washington	J-243	J-289
112	Ben McKernan, Moses Lake, Washington	J-245	J-289
113	Katherine Sweet, Moses Lake, Washington	J-247	J-289
114	Sheldon Ralston, Stratford, Washington	J-249	J-289
115	Sherry Turner, Moses Lake, Washington	J-251	J-289
116	Susan Zwinger, Langley, Washington	J-253	J-289
117	Marilyn M. Meseberg, Othello, Washington	J-257	J-289

List of Signatures from Duplicate Letters

	Form Letter 19 - Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel-Drive Association		J-291
	Form Letter 20		J-291
	Form Letter 21		J-292
	Form Letter 22 - Washougal Bunch 4x4 Club		J-317
	Form Letter 23		J-317



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Letter 1

Reply to
Attn of: ECO-088

Ref: 98-042-BOR

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
32 C Street, Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the draft environmental impact statement for the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan, CEQ No. 010035. We are submitting comments according to our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Section 309, independent of NEPA, specifically directs EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts associated with all major federal action.

Based on our review, we have rated this draft EIS, EC-2, Environmental Concerns-Insufficient Information. An explanation of the EPA rating system is enclosed for your reference. This rating and a summary of our comments will be published in the *Federal Register*. Our concerns include the loss of shrub-steppe and water quality issues in the Potholes Reservoir and East Potholes Canal.

Of the four alternatives evaluated, the preferred alternative would balance a growing need for recreation while protecting the natural and cultural environment of the 36,200-acre reservoir near Moses Lake in southern Grant County. This alternative includes a mix of developed recreation areas, designated dispersed camping sites, and restricting off road vehicles (ORV) to improve wildlife habitats and populations, sand dunes and vegetative cover.

List of Signatures from Duplicate Letters

	Form Letter 19 - Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel-Drive Association		J-291
	Form Letter 20		J-291
	Form Letter 21		J-292
	Form Letter 22 - Washougal Bunch 4x4 Club		J-317
	Form Letter 23		J-317

Protection Shrub-Steppe

1A Under all alternatives, the Potholes State Park expansion (adjacent to the Reservoir) would destroy 11 acres of shrub-steppe because of construction of hiking/pedestrian trails. The EIS should provide more information on how an impervious surface, such as the 1.7-mile asphalt-surfaced trail, will affect drainage patterns between the Don Mar Resort and the state park, and the

1B Much of the shrub-steppe, once dominant in Eastern Washington, has almost been eliminated by agriculture and grazing. According to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Grant County once contained the greatest acreage of shrub-steppe in the state, but now only 35% remains.

We recommend that the EIS estimate to the extend possible the direct, indirect and cumulative effects to shrub-steppe from project implementation.

Water Quality

The EIS identifies two bodies of water, Potholes Reservoir and East Potholes Canal, on the state's 1998 Section 303(d) list. The Reservoir is listed for the pesticide dieldrin, found in the muscle tissues of lake whitefish and largemouth bass. The East Potholes Canal is listed for dissolved oxygen and temperature.

1C To meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act, the EIS must indicate how the project will comply with any applicable existing load limit (TMDL) in the project area. Information on load limits is available from Ron McBride at the Ecology Department.

Sensitive Plant Species and Wetlands

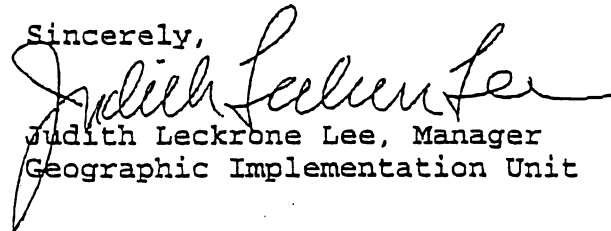
1D We recommend that the EIS provide assurances that the project would maintain and restore water quality and sensitive plant species, such as the gray cryptantha, an upland forb.

1E The EIS needs to clarify whether jet boats are included in a plan to lower water craft speed to minimize the disturbance to birds using habitats for nesting and breeding. According to the EIS, these water craft jet around shallow and sometimes vegetated shoreline areas and may uproot emergent plants and disturb submerged plants and shoreline animals like fish and aquatic insects.

3

If you would like to discuss these issues, please contact Val Varney, (206) 553-1901. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judith Leckrone Lee".

Judith Leckrone Lee, Manager
Geographic Implementation Unit

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Rating System for
Draft Environmental Impact Statements
Definitions and Follow-Up Action*

Environmental Impact of the Action

LO - - Lack of Objections

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

EC - - Environmental Concerns

The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce these impacts.

EO - - Environmental Objections

The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no-action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EU - - Environmentally Unsatisfactory

The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potential unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1 - - Adequate

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis of data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

Category 2 - - Insufficient Information

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

Category 3 - - Inadequate

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act and or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

* From EPA Manual 1640 Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment. February, 1987.

Letter 2

James Blanchard - Draft EIS for the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan

From: "Patricia E Riley" <periley@usgs.gov>
To: <JBlanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 3/21/01 7:37 AM
Subject: Draft EIS for the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan

Jim.

2 [USGS has reviewed the subject Draft EIS and has no comments to offer.
Thanks.

Trish Riley
U.S. Geological Survey
Reston, VA

Letter 3



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

*Eastern Washington Ecological
Services Field Office
P.O. Box 848
Ephrata, WA 98823
(509) 754-8580 FAX: (509)
754-8575*

March 16, 2001

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Director, Pacific Region
Portland, OR

From: Supervisor, Eastern Washington Ecological Services Office
Ephrata, WA

Subject: DEIS for the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan- EC 01/0009

The following includes our comments on the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan (RMP). We have been working with Reclamation for the past several years regarding the development of the DEIS and the RMP. Overall, we have been pleased with how Reclamation has incorporated our input and with the direction they have headed. However, we do have some comments we would like to provide:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's July, 2000 final Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report on the RMP, whose findings were concurred with by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in a letter dated July 19, 2000, evaluated Reclamation's proposed alternatives. Our report found that implementing the Preservation and Enhancement Alternative (Alternative C) would provide the most benefits to fish and wildlife of the four alternatives evaluated. However, implementing the Preferred Alternative (Alternative B) would still significantly improve conditions for fish and wildlife over existing conditions. A major benefit of this alternative would be closing over 1,400 acres of wildlife habitat (the Yellow Zone) to off-road vehicle (ORV) use. Restrictions on dispersed camping, closing of some roads, and some restrictions on personal water craft and boats would serve to protect and enhance wildlife habitat, as well as decrease disturbance factors to wildlife. We fully support the adoption of either Alternative C or Alternative B.

3

[We understand that Reclamation is under tremendous pressure to keep the Yellow Zone open. If it is determined in the future that the Yellow Zone will remain open, then it should continue to only be opened seasonally and the number of ORV users should be strictly limited (for example, using a permit system).

We are pleased to see the DEIS's inclusion of Watchable Wildlife areas within each of the alternatives. These areas need to be sited to avoid or minimize impacting sensitive wildlife species. Also, we strongly support the Preferred Alternative's year-round prohibition of discharge of firearms in the Watchable Wildlife areas as well as the Lind Coulee Arm. The prohibition in the Lind Coulee Arm would help protect Washington ground squirrels, a candidate species for listing, from illegal shooting suspected in the area.

If you have any questions or need clarification on these comments, please contact Don Haley of my staff at (509) 754-8580.

CC: USFWS, Portland (BFA-ERT)
USFWS, Spokane (Susan Martin)
WDFW, Ephrata (Dennis Beich)



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

4601 N. Monroe, Suite 202 • Spokane, Washington 99205-1295 • (509) 456-2926

March 26, 2001

Mr. Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

RE: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement
For the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the above referenced plan. Overall it is very thorough and detailed, but I do have some comments and suggestions about the topics that am most interested in: weed and mosquito control and fish management. It is my responsibility to issue permits for the use of pesticides on or near surface water, including wetlands, for the control of weeds, mosquitoes and fish. I also provide assistance in developing weed and mosquito control plans.

Following are my comments, with reference to the document location:

Chapter 1 - 1.5, p 1-12: SPECIFIC PERMITS NEEDED:

4A

- The Department of Ecology, Eastern Regional Office, Water Quality Program issues permits for the application of aquatic pesticides for control of noxious and nuisance weeds, mosquito larva and fish management. Any agency who applies pesticides to surface water, including wetlands, needs to obtain a permit from Ecology.

Chapter 2 - 2.4, p. 2-6: MANAGEMENT ACTIONS..., Natural Resources:

4B

- I would recommend that you add to the list a summary statement about weed control such as: "Develop and implement a noxious and nuisance weed control plan that identifies and prioritizes problem weeds, and recommends control actions." The Plan should be developed with the participation of the Grant County Weed Board, WDFW, Ecology and the Washington Dept. of Agriculture.

Chapter 2 - 2.4, pp 2-7, 2-8: Table 2-1, Vegetation and Weed Control:

4C

- The Management Action list does not include all weed management activities, and I would again suggest developing a plan to cover all weed control, both terrestrial and aquatic.

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- 4D [• P-8 - Purple loosestrife - Biological control of this plant with weevils is becoming the primary source of control. The use of weevil is very successful in several areas.

Chapter 2 - 2.5.2, pp 2-42-2-43: PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: Vegetation and Weed Control:

- 4E [• **Re: Aquatic weed control (milfoil, purple loosestrife, salt cedar et al.)** A good weed management plan would cover the management needs for all noxious and nuisance weeds and would include all current and potential weed problems. The plan would identify the preferred treatment options that recognize the effects on other species.

Chapter 2 - 2.5.2, p 2-45: PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: Water Quality:

- 4F [• The Grant County Mosquito Control District #1 (GCMCD) should consult with you about mosquito control activities in the Reserve management areas. Ecology issues yearly permits for mosquito control activity to the MCD in which we specify what control agents may be used under what circumstances. Your agency will be put on the notification list for requesting comments when the GCMCD submits its annual permit application. Although the preferred control agents are the biological controls, in some circumstances we allow the use of chemical control, especially if there is a human health concern and biological controls do not work. We would like your input about allowing the use of chemical controls in the Reserve areas.
- 4G [

Chapter 3 - 3.4.6, pp 3-26-28: Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds:

- 4H [• There are also invasive weeds that are not yet classified as noxious, one being phragmites. You could add a paragraph about unlisted weeds that are now or that potentially can become as much of a problem as the listed weeds. You need to be prepared to deal with these newcomers as well as the established noxious weeds. They should be listed in a weed control plan, and control measures should be identified to manage them.

- **Ibid., p 3-28: re purple loosestrife:** The use of biological control using weevils is making good headway already in the control of loosestrife.
- **Ibid., p 3-28, re integrated weed management program:** Not having seen this program, I don't know if it is current or thorough enough to adequately address aquatic weed control. Milfoil is the only aquatic weed mentioned in this section, but other invasive aquatic weeds are also present in the Reserve.

- 4I [• **Ibid., p 3-28, re integrated weed management program:** One item that is apparently missing from the program is obtaining permits to apply pesticides to water to control weeds. Ecology requires permits to use chemical pesticides for aquatic weed control, and this should be recognized in the weed management plan.

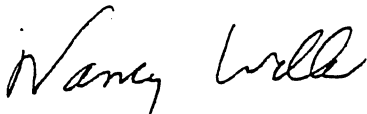
Appendix A - GOALS & OBJECTIVES: VEGETATION- p A-4:

- Noxious and other vegetation species of concern goals:
 1. As I mentioned before, I would recommend the development of a weed management plan (or at least an updated plan) listed as a goal.
 2. A comprehensive plan could address the control, eradication and/or management of noxious weeds and other species of concern, perhaps with a priority listing of targeted weeds.
 3. Question: what do you mean by common reedgrass? Is this a species like phragmites, or a catchall name for a type of weed?

4J [**GENERAL COMMENT:** In documents such as this, the references to weeds, etc., should be done with the scientific as well as the common name. This leaves no questions as to what species are being named.

If you have any questions about any of my comments or need clarification, please feel free to call me at (509) 625-5194 or email me at nwel461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Nancy Weller
Water Quality Program

NW:dw

cc: Heidi Scheibner, Ecology



Letter 5

STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

1550 Alder Street NW • Ephrata, Washington 98823 • (509) 754-4624 FAX (509) 754-5257

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages = 5

To <i>Dan's Pearson</i>	From <i>Jim Blanchard</i>
Dept./Agency	Phone #
Fax # <i>208-338-9063</i>	Fax #

NSN 7540-01-317-7368

5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

July 6, 2001

William D. Gray
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Gray:

**SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) FOR THE
POTHOLES RESERVOIR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP),
GRANT COUNTY, WASHINGTON, JANUARY 2001**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) appreciates the opportunity to participate in the development process for the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan (RMP). Our primary role is to pursue the protection and perpetuation of the fish and wildlife resource and to represent the best interests of the different fish and wildlife user groups.

We understand the purpose of the EIS is to present, for public review, an analysis of potential environmental impacts from the different proposed management alternatives. The information gained from this process will then be used to develop the final RMP which in turn will provide management guidelines for the land and water resources on project lands at Potholes Reservoir.

The implementation of the final, adopted RMP could or likely will be dependant on additional, site-specific environmental review as well as the appropriation of adequate funding to implement the identified requirements, action items and guidelines which call for management at a much higher level than current budgets would allow.

The draft EIS also summarizes the role of the RMP in relationship to the new management or lease agreement currently under negotiation between the Bureau and state. Briefly it states, "the management agreement will require the state to follow and comply with the identified requirements, actions items and guidelines." But due to the budget constraints mentioned above, this will be difficult unless a clear understanding of expectations and priorities is reached during development of the management agreement.

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William D. Gray

July 6, 2001

Page 2

Overall, we find the document to be quite thorough, well written and closely represents the consensus of the two working groups that we were integral parts of, the Land Management Agencies group and the Ad Hoc working group. Therefore, we support the Preferred Alternative with the recognition that new information or information gained from the public input process could modify the final management prescriptions provided in the RMP.

Off-road Vehicle Use Area "Yellow Zone." We continue to believe it is timely and appropriate to discontinue Off-road Vehicle use in the wetland/riparian zones associated within the RMP management area. The 1997 WDFW study "Effects of Off-Road Vehicles Use on Birds and Vegetation at Moses Lake Sand Dunes ORV Area" (Cooke, Monda & LaVoy) clearly demonstrates the negative impacts ORV's have on wetland and terrestrial habitats as well as disturbance to wildlife populations. These impacts are summarized in the RMP EIS in Sec. 3.4.2, pg 3-22 and Sec. 3.4.7, pg 3-29.

However, with the high level of public interest and community support expressed for retaining the Off-road Vehicle 'Yellow Zone', we agree it is reasonable to re-evaluate the proposed changes for the ORV area. We are very interested in working with all parties involved to find ways to maintain ORV use areas and to minimize impacts to ORV recreation.

In this regard, we are willing to consider the recent proposal to retain a southern portion of the "Yellow Zone" for seasonal ORV use. This would primarily include the area found in Sections 20 and 21. We understand this area is the major use area of the existing Yellow Zone, and if retained, would be significant in maintaining the current level of ORV recreation. We understand the area contains seasonally flooded flats and ponds with lesser amounts of wetland/riparian habitat. Impacts to wildlife would primarily be limited to late summer displacement of resting waterfowl and foraging shorebirds.

- 5A In order to retain a southern portion of the "Yellow Zone" for ORV use, we recommend the following steps be implemented: 1) Establish a fence line or series of monument posts that clearly marks the boundary of the use area; 2) Designate a trail or set of trails to access the site from the main use area (Green Zone); 3) To minimize impact to wildlife and avoid conflicts with hunters, maintain the current 'season of use' (July 1 - September 30); and 4) Establish a series of parameters to monitor compliance of use and recovery of areas outside the use area. These parameters would set the 'Limits of Acceptable Change' (LAC) to base habitats in the area. The LAC would be monitored annually through a set of photo points and/or other similar means. To ensure clear understanding of the program, representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission, Grant County Sherif Office and ORV user groups should work together in establishing the boundary, trails and LAC's.

William D. Gray
July 6, 2001
Page 3

Long-term Issues.

Human Disturbance. In our opinion, human related activities that are disruptive to fish and wildlife populations were not adequately addressed in the draft EIS. In some cases, these activities may even be disruptive to the fish and wildlife users groups creating potential recreational conflicts.

Over the past 2-3 years, this issue was frequently discussed during the RMP process. We specifically are concerned about speed boats and/or personal watercraft (PWC) and dispersed camping in and around the many sand dunes islands which provide excellent habitat for many bird species.

5B

The EIS cites the recent amendments to Grant County Ordinance 6.08 as justification for dropping detailed analysis of proposed 'no wake zones'. The ordinance addresses public safety, but not boating disturbance to fish and wildlife populations. We understand that the main reason the 'boat speed' issue was not pursued more aggressively centers on the problems of enforcement jurisdiction, man-power, and adequate funding. But, we strongly believe boating and camping activities need to be closely monitored, problems identified and strategies developed to better protect the fish and wildlife resources and user groups.

The EIS (pg 2-44) does identify the need to seek funding to analyze human disturbance impacts to wildlife. We endorse this action item. And, we are encouraged with the designation of two Habitat Management Areas proposed in the preferred alternative.

Hunting Opportunities. The summary statement of recreational activities on page 1-9 does not list hunting within the most popular activities within the study area, and suggests hunting may be a problem within high public use areas. Although the intent of this statement is likely to promote public safety which we totally agree, it is our position that hunting is a major recreational activity of the study area and all projects lands under our management responsibility should remain open for public hunting with the recognition that modifications may be necessary to assure public safety and/or for the protection of identified critical habitats.

5C

The statement on pg 2-37 (2nd bullet) regarding hunting on reclamation lands should be listed under 2.4 actions common to all alternatives, not just under A. the No Action alternative.

5D

The seasonal "no shooting zones" at the proposed "Watchable Wildlife" sites are intended to control random shooting, i.e. target practice, to reduce wildlife disturbance, to enhance wildlife viewing opportunities and to maintain public safety. The 'no shooting zones' should coincide with the primary hunting season closure or from February 1 or to September 1.

William D. Gray
 July 6, 2001
 Page 4

Angling Opportunities. The EIS identifies the fisheries resource as among the most frequent areas of concern identified by the public (p 1-7), and the report includes a fairly good summary of the myriad factors influencing the fisheries resource (pp 3-40 to 3-46). We share these concerns and have instigated baseline investigations since 1997 to identify and prioritize the impacts of these factors. All alternatives recognize that neither WDFW nor BOR have the resources to pursue all avenues of investigation immediately and that funding sources should be sought to achieve the goals suggested in the plan (p 2-30).

Watchable Wildlife Sites. The preferred alternative identifies three sites for development of wildlife observation and interpretation. This is a new and exciting program that we are looking forward to implementing once funding is identified. Also, we are aware of some public concern for possible conflict with other users groups. The 'watchable wildlife' sites will only be developed with additional environmental review including public input to minimize impacts and conflicts.

5E [Grazing Management. The preferred alternative allows up to 600 AUMs of grazing on the existing 7,400 acre Grazing Permit #TP-01 within the current seasons of use on the two fenced pastures. Adopting this defined grazing prescription for the ten year term of the RMP will limit the possibilities for using grazing management to enhance fish and wildlife habitats. We prefer that the RMP does not include specific grazing prescriptions and retains the option of grazing as a 'management tool' to improve habitat condition.

Specific Issues.

5F [Pg 2-6 Natural Resources. 2nd bullet. We don't agree with the list of 'weed species of concern' nor do we favor prioritizing target species due to the dynamics of weed management. Species of particular concern to us are generally those in Class A and B- Designate noxious weeds that invade, dominate and degrade high priority fish and wildlife habitats.

5G [Pg 2-9 Table 2-1, Fish & Wildlife (continued), sixth line. It states "prohibit public access in south/central area of North Potholes". This should be changed to "restricted access" as it is listed in other parts of the RMP.

5H [Pg 2-19 Table 2-2, Alternative B, prohibits of any floating device in the south central portion of the North Potholes Reserve. We prefer this be changed to "seasonally restrict the use of any floating devices". This would provide the flexibility of protecting sensitive habitats while allowing compatible types of recreation.

5I [Pg 2-32 2nd bullet. Review of the MOU with the mosquito district is scheduled for 2002.

William D. Gray
July 6, 2001
Page 5

5J [Pg 2-42 Weed Control, 2nd bullet. Restoring sites in the "Yellow Zone" would be expensive and difficult, and we question the merit of interpreting the effort.

5K [pg 2-47 1st bullet. Posting signs on specific nesting islands is a good opportunity to protect nesting birds, provided a strategy to maintain the signs in heavy recreational areas can be developed. It may be more practical to post the islands open to camping.
2nd bullet. We agree with the designations of the HMA's and support the management actions, but understand the enforcement challenge; and that the designation of the West Arm HMA is contingent on development of visible markers at the point of entry.

5L [Pg 2-48 1st bullet. Monitoring dispersed camping and recreational area has considerable merit, but would be very labor intensive and a major budget item.

Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dennis Beich
Regional Director

cc: Matt Monda, WDFW Ephrata
Joe Foster, WDFW Ephrata
Tracy Lloyd, WDFW Ephrata
Robert Kent, WDFW Moses Lake
Cynthia Pratt, WDFW Olympia
Thomas W. Ernsberger, WSPRC, Wenatchee
Mark Miller, USFWS, P.O. Box 848, Ephrata
Dautis Pearson, URS/Dames and Moore, 1750 Front Street, Suite 100, Boise ID 83702

Letter 6

13 March 2001

TO: Mr. Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

FROM: Jim Thompson
Grant County Mosquito Control District#1
735 Edgewater Lane
Moses Lake, WA 98837
RE: Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Dear Mr. Blanchard,

It is greatly appreciated that the draft E.I.S. was sent to the Grant County Mosquito Control District#1, hereafter called, the District. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

The completion of the O'Sullivan Dam in the early 1950's brought many new and wonderful changes to the central Columbia Basin. Many manmade changes took place with this project for the purpose of increasing food production to feed the growing populations. As it is stated in Ch. 3, Affected Environment, the project "dramatically changed" the existing landscape creating habitats for fish, and wildlife, and providing recreational opportunities. And along with the added water to an otherwise arid region, (page 3-57) came conditions for mosquitos to develop. With the increased abundance of mosquitos came increased deaths from equine encephalitis. These deaths began occurring in, but were not limited to, young children and the elderly. It was an unfortunate over site that these issues were not addressed at the time the Reservoir project began. This public health problem was caused by man, therefore man should be responsible for the remedy. The issue of public health and the protection of the population should be addressed in this E.I.S.

6A

In Ch. 3 (page 3-1), Affected Environment, Environmental Justice requirements for identifying and addressing adverse human health, the statement was made, "Proposed management actions would not produce hazardous waste or conditions that might affect human populations, nor result in other disproportionately high and adverse impacts." This is incorrect.

6B

In Ch. 5 (pages 5-2 and 5-3), Public Involvement and Agency Consultation, the District was not included in the Land Management Agency Work Group. The District was not contacted as a Key Opinion Leader. And the District was not contacted by the Ad Hoc Agency Work Group

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6B

for comment. In light of the amount of work the District must perform to control the mosquito populations in the North Reservoir area, the District should have been a key player in this process.

Each "Water Quality" section of the various alternatives pertaining to mosquito control (pages 2-45, 2-58, 2-65) read as follows: "Work with Grant County Mosquito Control District#1 to avoid or minimize chemical mosquito control methods in the upper west arm, upper crab creek arm, and north potholes reserve management areas. If mosquito control is determined necessary, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (bti) or similar biological control methods would be used."

6C

These statements should reflect the facts. The District operates under direction from the state Dept. of Ecology with annual permits through the specific water quality criteria to be applied to all surface waters of the state for the protection of aquatic life as detailed in WAC 173-201A-040 (Toxic Substances). Also, the E.I.S. should reference the requirements of the State Health Department should there be an outbreak of equine encephalitis or West Nile virus.

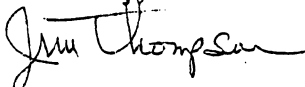
References are made for allowing the use of herbicides (page 2-42) and the use of rotenone (page 2-43). And in appendix B further referencing resource protection and enhancement, through weed control and carp-free waters. Then the next paragraph states in its entirety "The use of pesticides and herbicides harmful to fish and/or wildlife would not be allowed. In concert with WDFW's goal to avoid or minimize the use of chemical controls, mosquito control efforts will emphasize b.t.i. or similar biological means." This is all very confusing and appears somewhat contradicting.

6D

In the process of this Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the District should have been included to relay accurate and firsthand information needed on the mandates and the operations of the District.

The District is looking forward to working with the Bureau of Reclamation in the future.

Sincerely,



Jim Thompson-Manager Grant County Mosquito Control District #1

pc: Jack Lilja- Dept. of Health

Nancy Weller- Dept. of Ecology

GRANT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MICHAEL SHAY
Undersheriff

P.O. Box 37 • Ephrata, WA 98823
(509) 754-2011 • (800) 572-0119
Fax (509) 754-2058
E-Mail: gcsheriff@qwkssilvr.com

DAVE PONOZZO
Chief Deputy

JERRY BUTLER
Chief Deputy

LESLIE GONZALES
Administrative
Assistant

PETE McMAHON
Captain

March 27, 2001

Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Jim Blanchard
PO Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

We have received the January 2001 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Potholes Management area and a review of Alternate plans A-D was accomplished. The plan preferred by Dames and Moore is Alternate B, which closes down the Yellow Zone to motor vehicle travel and off road vehicle (ORV) use.

7 [As you are aware, the Yellow Zone is a seasonal closure to ORV use due to water foul brooding. This area was given to ORV users a number of years ago to allow users an area for their type of recreation. This was done so that the remainder of the Potholes Reservoir would not be impacted. With this in mind our preference is **Alternate A** or no action. Alternate A would not jeopardize ORV use, as we know it now. Our ORV program has fenced, signed and gated the Yellow Zone in an effort to control unauthorized use in this area, which makes Alternate-A a more desirable solution.

Please feel free to contact Undersheriff Shay or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

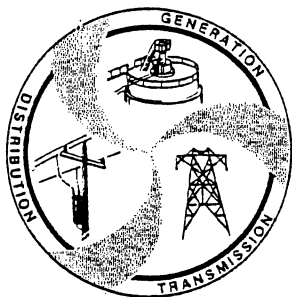
William A. Wiester

WILLIAM A. WIESTER
GRANT COUNTY SHERIFF

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PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 2 OF GRANT COUNTY

MEETING OUR CUSTOMER ENERGY NEEDS IN A COST CONSCIOUS MANNER.

P. O. BOX 878 • EPHRATA, WASHINGTON 98823 • 509/754-0500

Hand Delivered

April 10, 2001

Mr. Jim Blanchard
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Re: Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan

Mr. Blanchard:

8.

This is in response to the USBR's Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan dated January 2001. Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County (District) is concerned about the apparent increase in the colonial nesting of predatory (fish eating) birds within the Potholes Reservoir. The purpose of this letter is to provide the USBR with information, in the hope of developing a program for restricting further nesting of gulls, terns, herons, egrets, and grebes which feed on threatened or endangered salmonids within the Columbia River.

In recent years Terns have become more common place in the lower Columbia River basin. According to the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), in 1997 the colony of Caspian Terns at Rice Island was blamed for an estimated consumption of 6 to 25 million salmonid smolts. To demonstrate the impact on Upper Columbia River species, Shane Bickford of Douglas County PUD has reported that 12% of the PIT-Tags used in their 1999 Survival Study were recovered at Rice Island.

Caspian Terns have expanded their range to the Mid-Columbia as a result of lower river overcrowding, hazing activities, expanding populations and loss of habitat for nesting in other areas. Significant known nesting colonies now exist in McNary Reservoir (Crescent Island-300 birds) and Potholes Reservoir (Solstice Island-approximately 160-200 birds in 2000). The nesting periods correspond with the peak run timing for salmonid smolts. The nesting site on Solstice Island is approximately 25 miles from the Columbia River. The nesting/rearing period does not correspond with fry emergence of other fish species in the Potholes Reservoir so it is believed that the breeding terns feed almost exclusively on salmonid smolts within the Priest Rapids Project.

NOTICE

If you detach enclosures
please insert code number
and initial _____

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Evidence of Tern Predation on Salmonid Smolts Within the Priest Rapids Project Area.

Preliminary PIT and radio tag recovery at Solstice Island in the Potholes area from the 2000 Grant, Chelan and Douglas PUD tag releases shown below. Based on the recovered tags alone, the terns are taking from 1.78% to 2.51% of all tagged steelhead smolts. As indicated in the charts below, the predation rate for chinook and sockeye appears to be much lower.

Priest Rapids Project Survival Study

	Estimated Population for 2000 from NMFS Report dated 3/16/00	Total # tagged/species	Recovered Solstice Island Tags	% Predation
Steelhead	1,799,140	1,159	29	2.50%

Rocky Reach Bypass Evaluation

	Estimated Population for 2000	Total # tagged/species	Recovered Solstice Island Tags	% Predation
Chinook -1	1,990,805	2478	9	0.36%
Chinook - 0	1,990,805	1743	5	0.29%
Steelhead	1,865,196	1195	30	2.51%
Sockeye	N/A	691	2	0.29%

Wells Forebay/Wells Tailrace

	Estimated Population for 2000	Total number of fish tagged/ location	Recovered Solstice Island Tags	% Predation
Steelhead	1,624,538	30,500/Wells T.R.	710	2.33%
Steelhead	1,624,538	30,500/Wells F.B.	543	1.78%

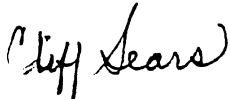
There is enough information collected to date to be concerned about the apparent increase in tern predation on salmonid smolts within the Priest Rapids Project. While precise population estimates are not known, it is apparent that a majority of birds are traveling from the Solstice Island area to feed on Columbia River salmonids. Early data from Mid-Columbia survival studies using radio-tags indicates that of the 43 radio-tags recovered at Solstice Island, 63% (27) were of District origin. All radio-tags with known tag codes (29, one tag released twice), regardless of their release site, were last tracked to either the Wanapum pool (6), Wanapum Dam (10) and Hanford Reach (13). These data indicate that the geographical range of predation by terns includes areas below Rock Island and down into or below the Hanford array (e.g., Ringold flats). Other flyways to Project waters may include Crab Creek, Frenchman Springs, Sand Hollow Creek and the Columbia Basin Wildlife Refuge.”

We believe the USBR's preferred action to close certain nesting areas to the public during nesting periods, restrict watercraft to low speed/minimum wake operation and seasonally

prohibit dispersed camping will only increase the prevalence of predatory birds and adversely impact listed salmonids. We believe that the Draft EIS inadequately evaluates the impact of fish eating birds on listed salmonids in the mid-Columbia River contrary to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act. We are requesting specific measures and goals within the management plan that will deter colonial nesting birds within the vicinity of the Columbia River and specifically at Solstice Island.

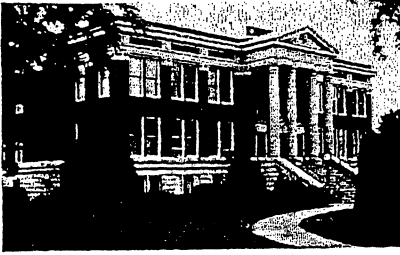
We have discussed the District's radio telemetry study in 2001 with Stephanie Utter of the USBR and Robert Kent of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife office. A copy of recent correspondence is attached. In summary, we would like to work with you to assist the USBR in developing a management plan that will address salmonid predation by various fish eating birds as well as different options for control. I will be calling you to set up a time to discuss this issue. If you have any research data on salmonid predation by various bird species nesting in the Potholes Reservoir area, we would appreciate a copy of the same. Please call me at (509) 754-6612 or Darrell Pock at (509) 754-5098 if you have any questions.

Very Truly Yours



Clifford R. Sears
Regulatory Compliance Coordinator

c: Robert Kent, WDFW
Stephanie Utter, USBR
Bryan Nordlund, NMFS



GRANT COUNTY
OFFICE OF
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

POST OFFICE BOX 37
EPHRATA, WASHINGTON 98823
(509) 754-2011

Letter 9

March 26, 2001

Mr. Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O.Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

RE: Release of the Draft EIS for the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

We have major concerns relating to the many unanswered questions raised by the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan EIS, and economic impacts on several communities within Grant County.

9A

It appears that no value is attributed to recent cultural dependence, i.e. 3 and possibly 4 generations of recreational users and their reliance upon continued access to the Potholes area appears to be omitted. Economic impacts were viewed on a broad scale with general countywide numbers and little community impact analysis relating to several directly impacted communities (Royal City, Moses Lake, and Marine View Heights).

9B

We believe both agencies and the public want to see the entire area protected to preserve and enhance the wildlife, vegetation, fish and cultural resources. We also believe that the public should have access to public lands if recreation on those lands is compatible with protection of the resources. Washington State R.C.W.'s identify the County as the lead local entity in determining consistent land use. As such we are leaning towards the recommendation which would allow the public to continue using the Yellow Designated Zone on a limited basis.

9C

However it is our understanding that NEPA requires a more fully developed set of alternatives addressing local community impacts such as customs, culture and economics and therefore we respectfully ask that this process concerning the Potholes EIS be suspended. Any further action should include Grant County, Grant County Economic Development, or Big Bend Economic Development in a thorough analysis of the true local impacts.

Sincerely,

L.C. Allison, Chairman

Deborah Kay Moore

L. Murray

LCA/pg
cc: Patty Murray
Maria Cantwell
Doc Hastings

J-27

TIM SNEAD
DISTRICT 1
10999 STRATFORD RD.
MOSES LAKE, WA 98837
PHONE 765-9548

DEBORAH MOORE
DISTRICT 3
1805 DODSON RD. N
MOSES LAKE, WA 98837
PHONE 787-3169

LEREY ALLISON
DISTRICT 2
20268 RD. 1 SE
WARDEN, WA 98857
PHONE 349-2513

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CITY OF MOSES LAKE
W A S H I N G T O N



City Manager	766-9201	Municipal Serv	766-9217
City Attorney	766-9203	Municipal Court	766-9201
Community Dev	766-9235	Parks & Rec	766-9240
Finance Dept	766-9249	Police Dept	766-9230
Fire Dept	765-2204	City Hall Fax	766-9392
Fire Dept Fax	765-2291		

April 17, 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P. O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

RE: Closure of Portion of the Potholes ORV area for public use

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

10. [The City of Moses Lake is concerned about the closure of an additional portion of the Potholes ORV area to the public. The public usage of the Potholes ORV area is important to the tourism economy of the City of Moses Lake. Under the circumstances the city would ask the Bureau to carefully weigh all possible options before closing any additional areas of the Potholes for public use.]

Very truly yours

Richard Pearce
Mayor

RP:JKG:jt

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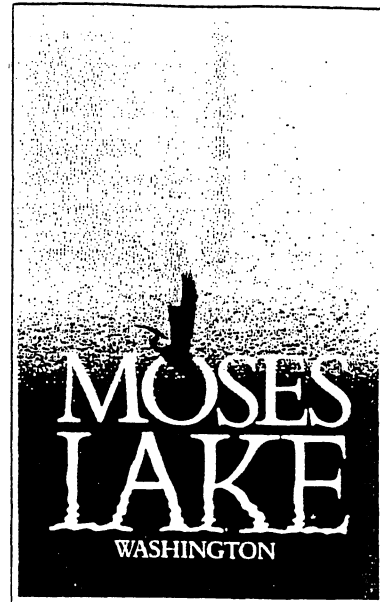
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Letter 11

Moses Lake Area
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

324 SOUTH PIONEER WAY • MOSES LAKE, WA 98837-1737

509-765-7888



April 17, 2001

Mr. Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard,

The Thursday, April 5th meeting at the Moses Lake Public Library where the Bureau of Reclamation explained their plan to reduce the usable size of the region commonly known as the Sand Dunes ORV area was attended by several Chamber of Commerce Board members and staff. We felt the meeting was very constructive and beneficial and thank the organizers for opening communication.

11A [The sand dunes area has been a source of recreation and pleasure for our residents and visitors for many years.. It remains a base for good family outdoor fun at an economical cost. To our knowledge there is little, if any, infringement on anyone or anything by maintaining the sand dunes area as it exists. The benefits far out weigh any negative factors. At the April 5th meeting, an alternative plan was presented to enhance the use of the sand dune area. May we suggest the merit of the plan and that it be included entirely or in part when considering any changes in this incredible recreational area.

11B [Our local people have an excellent grasp on what is in the public interest. We want what is best for our community and our visitors. Please take into consideration the comments made and make a decision giving strong consideration to the opinions and interest of our local residents.

Very Sincerely,

Karen Wagner,
Manager

Moses Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

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DOC HASTINGS
4TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON RULES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PROCESS



Letter 12

1323 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5816

2715 ST. ANDREWS LOOP
PASCO, WA 99301
(509) 543-9396

302 E. CHESTNUT
YAKIMA, WA 98901
(509) 452-3243

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

March 27, 2001

Mr. Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan. After reviewing the DEIS and subsequent feedback from my constituents, I recommend that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) implement a strategy that allows for continued recreational access.

12A

It goes without saying that the local public has a vested interest in maintaining wildlife habitat and environmental surroundings in the so-called "Yellow Zone" of Potholes Reservoir. While at the same time the public and government agencies must work to maintain a standard for wildlife, recreationists deserve access to public lands particularly when their activity is reliant upon the protection and sustainability of those resources.

As you are aware, off-road vehicle (ORV) use is currently available in the "Yellow Zone" three months of the year. During peak and off-peak recreation periods, recreational ORV groups organize and implement clean-up efforts so as to increase their enjoyment level, the aesthetics of the area, and to maintain the very environment they choose to enjoy.

12B

Because local entities have a distinct interest in the Potholes Reservoir's environment for recreation and tourism, combined with compounded efforts to prohibit ORV use on public lands, I have concerns about restricting an additional portion of acreage for their use. Furthermore, as the Potholes Reservoir is utilized predominantly by local residents, I hope that considerable weight is given to those who have commented from the region.

Again, thank you for including my comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding my correspondence.

Sincerely,

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

1000819
4-2-01

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Letter 13

Olympia Office:
401C Legislative Building
PO Box 40413
Olympia, WA 98504-0413
Toll-Free Hotline: 1-800-562-6000
(360) 786-7624

Washington State Senate

Senator Harold Hochstatter
13th Legislative District

Residence
2104 Marina Drive
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 765-8164

March 22, 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
32 C Street
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Jim:

Over the last several days I have received several phone calls, as well as letters, regarding the Potholes Reservoir. The people who are contacting me are uncomfortable not knowing how this situation even got started. They know that none of their people are involved, nor do they know of anyone else who initiated this. Apparently the initiative to limit access takes off and runs on its own and the people who are primarily affected have no idea how it even got started, and who their adversaries are.

13A [Jim, I encourage you to refrain from changing anything, at least until vigorous input is heard from the public at large. I think using a federal solution in dealing with this issue is misplaced. I know there are problems, but Sheriff Weister is trying his best to address those with local solutions.

13B

Perhaps the most important question at this time is WHERE did this problem originate?
Secondly, who is on the other side?

If the public feels it is being summoned like truant school boys to sit in front of the people who should be serving them, they feel less like sovereign citizens and more like servants. Having the servants summon them is more dictatorial and setting a bad example they should be summoning you, the servants. It's an elemental concept that is primary to our free republic.

13C

I fear that in some of these initiatives we are losing that elemental concept. It is unclear to me how these things get started, and has caused considerable outrage and concern from my constituents. We are puzzled as to how we got to this point. How exactly does our country work anymore?

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Jim Blanchard
March 22, 2001
Page 2

Perhaps the public meeting that needs to be held will include Congressman Doc Hastings, Sheriff Bill Weister, and others from the community so we can address the problems out there. Input from the community is vital to a successful resolution.

Your servant,



Senator Harold Hochstatter
HH:ldm

cc: Congressman Doc Hastings
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Sheriff Bill Weister
Ed Stubington
Dennis Kauffman
Pat Hochstatter
Frank Holdren
Ross Lingenfelter



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Indian Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

Letter 14

March 22, 2001

RE: Comments to Potholes Draft-E.I.S. January 2001

Mr. Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

The Yakama Nation would like to compliment the Upper Columbia Area Office for conducting an in depth coverage of this Environmental Impact Statement (E.I.S.). It is obvious that many hours and research has gone into this draft with a careful thought for the future environment, human safety, and preservation of the land and its resources, which is greatly appreciated.

There are several issues that are lacking proper information to the public, such as, regulations and state laws that are made reference to in various sections in this draft, but no mention is made to this particular area of the State of Washington as being within the ceded lands of the Yakama Nation and the Treaty of 1855. One of our recommendations is that this information be on several of your interpretive information centers to the public on the reservoir and any other facilities your agencies has within the Yakama Nations Ceded Areas. (See attached map.)

14A

Page 2-46 Terminology is an essential factor. "Open to all Native Americans who have an interest in this E.I.S." We appreciate your wanting to include all of the Native Americans of the United States to comment on this draft, but the only tribe that has a legal right is the Yakama Nation. Please make the appropriate corrections.

14B

Page 3-2 "If sites are identified". The thought of "identifying" a sacred site disturbs me. Sacred in the English dictionary means: Holy, worthy of veneration. Holy: pertaining to godly virtues, sacred. Venerable: worthy of respect. Venerate: treat with reverence. Reverence: deep respect. The need to identify sacred sites has become an obsession with the new Americans. It is the belief of our bands to be inappropriate to pin point a "sacred" site. It is considered sacrilegious and a disrespect to the band members. It is in essence like selling ones sole to the evil one. If an English explanation is needed that is the closest comparison I could come up with. The English words are described above but words have been historically proven to us as forked tongued, ambiguous and never kept.

14C

Cultural, Management Actions, page 1-8 Complete Class III cultural surveys and consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer. Complete the Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). Any type of surveys and consultations must be cleared with the Yakama Nation. The state of Washington has no legal authority in the ceded lands of the Yakama Nation.

According to Mr. Richard Buck of the Wanapum Band it was stated that Mr. Rice would have no contacts with the Yakama Nation and that Mr. Rice appointed Mr. Richard Buck to handle questions posed by our program.

14D [If the appointed archeologist in this project has negative feelings about the Yakama Tribe and he is to arrange the Class III survey for this project we do not feel comfortable with this attitude. The Yakama Nation has their own qualified archeologist and Yakama enrolled cultural specialists that are willing to do the surveys at the same costs as given to Mr. Rice and any other agency or university.

14E [Indian Trust Assets, page 1-8 Coordinate and work with Native Americans to develop and display appropriate information on Native American use of the area and the need to preserve and protect cultural resources and traditional values. The term Native Americans must be corrected through out this document. I would not appreciate a Native American from Florida or any other place in the United States being given authority to prepare and develop historical information on the Yakama. We do have some understanding of the English language and we do have interpreters.

14F [Indicators I agree that the effects on the stipulations on the legal agreements made during the negotiations of the Yakama Nations Treaty of 1855 needs to be addressed. The Yakama peoples right to fish, gather food, and hunt. It is mentioned in this document that gates will be locked and closures. Are we agreeing to close off some of our members who utilize those particular areas? Camping fees - our members should not need to pay for camping in their own country.

14G [2-40 Public Health & Safety/Environmental Protection With the Yakama Treaty of 1855 implemented, the law enforcement of that county would have to meet with our law committee. In alternative B, 2.5.2, to develop a monitoring system to assess program results. In both of these sections, any monitoring to be done in the future, the Yakama Nation would have to be included in the allocated funds and employment. GIS of Wildlife, eagle count, our nation has qualified people to do this monitoring and should the funds be appropriated the Yakama Nation needs to be considered.

14H [4.9.2 Summary of Effects "Under all alternatives some areas would be transferred to the administration of the State Parks and Recreation Commission (SPRC), where hunting would not be allowed." In no way will the Yakama Nation transfer to the Administration of the State Parks and Recreation Commission or any other department, agency, or state. This statement must be reviewed.

14I [5.6 Ad Hoc Agency Work Group The Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program did not receive a notification to be on the Ad Hoc Agency Work Group nor were we notified of the meetings.

14J [Chapter 5 The proposed consultations with the tribes are not individualized. We would like to hear what the other tribes have to say and suggest on our ceded lands.

Summary: There were two trips that was made to the site. One was to the Eastern yellow section and the other was to parts of the green section and the sand dunes in section 10. I also attended the meeting Mr. Blanchard conducted. It was at this time that the letter from the Yakama Nation was resubmitted in regards to the present status. The Yakama Nation Cultural Resources staff ordered the draft document and was delivered to Mr. Leo Aleck, Secretary of the Yakama Nation Culture Committee, to review. I would suggest to the Yakama Nation that only one department be appointed to projects because the various departments, agencies and other state governments tend to play on our inability to communicate. When reviewing this

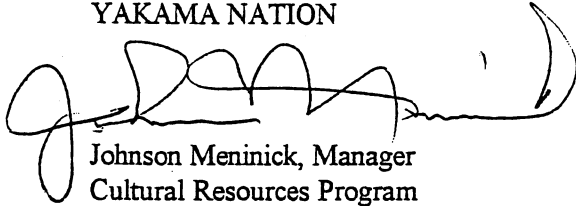
Mr. Jim Blanchard
RE: Comments to Potholes Draft-E.I.S. January 2001
Page 3
March 22, 2001

document you will note that several departments or people had been notified from the Yakama Nation. What were their responses? Did they respond?

Should your office or staff need any further information, assistance or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Johnson Meninick, Manager (509) 865-5121 extension 4737 or Gladys Wiltse, Cultural Specialist (509) 865-5121 extension 4765, fax (509) 865-4664. Your attention in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

YAKAMA NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johnson Meninick', is written over the typed name and title.

Johnson Meninick, Manager
Cultural Resources Program

JM/sh

c.c. Yakama Nation Culture Committee
Gladys Wiltse, Cultural Specialist
File

BLACK HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

April 26, 2001

A Washington State Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2524, Olympia, WA 98507

Mr. Jim Blanchard
US Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823



RE: Regarding the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan, Draft EIS

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

Black Hills Audubon Society which represents 1000 Audubon members in Thurston, Lewis and Mason Counties would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan, Draft EIS. We urge the adoption of the preferred alternative, Alternative B, with the following additions:

- 15A 1.) Funding must be provided to study use and disturbance of habitat in the Dunes/Sand Island management area. Because there are no sanitation facilities, camping should be limited. Camping should be allowed on certain islands only, to be determined and posted by the WDFW in order to protect nesting areas on some islands. Seasonally restrict all watercraft to low speed/minimum wake operation in the Dunes/Sand Islands management area from April 15 through June 30 to enhance wildlife nesting and breeding success for grebes and colonial nesting birds.
- 2.) Prohibit motorized watercraft in Upper West Arm and East Lind Coulee Arm. Restrict watercraft to low speed/minimum wake operation in the Upper Crab Creek Arm year-round.
- 15B 3.) Include as "Habitat Management Areas" the Upper West Arm, Upper Crab Creek, Peninsula South and East Lind Coulee Arm. These are all prime habitat areas, sensitive to human encroachment.
- 4.) In Habitat Management Areas use the word "restrict" motorized vehicles rather than "prohibit", as this would allow for the development of "Watchable Wildlife Areas".
- 5.) A specific area should be designated outside the four Habitat Management Areas for personal watercraft in order to protect shallow water nesting areas and shoreline habitat.
- 15C 6.) Develop an advisory board made up of a representative from each interested organization (CBAS, DU, Pheasants Forever, ORVers, etc) to be overseen by WDFW.
- 15D 7.) Close Power Line Road east of Crab Creek.

We are grateful that the Bureau of Reclamation is concerned about wildlife and wildlife appreciation. Hopefully the new management plan will help to further educate the public about the sensitivity of this unique area so it can be enjoyed and appreciated by all segments of the population for generations to come. Thank your for the opportunity to provide our comments.

Sincerely,

Beth Doglio

Beth Doglio, Co-President
Black Hills Audubon

Jean MacGregor

Jean MacGregor, Co-President
Black Hills Audubon



March 27, 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

The BlueRibbon Coalition is a nationwide organization representing 600,000 motorized recreationists, equestrians, and resource users. We work with land managers to provide recreation opportunities, preserve resources, and promote cooperation with other public land users. We have many members and member organizations who enjoy off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation in the area commonly known as the Moses Lake Sand Dunes.

The management of this area is addressed in the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Following are our comments on the management proposal.

16A [The DEIS addresses its future goals in management of the Potholes as response to issues. The DEIS has failed to articulate its own vision or "desired future condition" for the area. How do we know what the agencies' intentions are, except to react to identified issues? The agency needs to craft a positive vision for the area that includes response to issues, and then offer a range of alternatives that explores different ways of achieving that positive vision.

16B [None of the issues address the sand dunes, their unique ecosystem, their crucial role in the recreation of the area, or what kind of management is necessary to protect the dunes. For example, the DEIS does not explore the role of disturbance in protecting the integrity of the dunes, or how lack of disturbance can encourage the encroachment of vegetation. The DEIS does not explore the uniqueness of the dunes as an OHV recreation resource, its popularity, or the role this area plays in local economies.

16C [The DEIS' preferred alternative will close the dunes' Yellow Zone, which accounts for 44% of the OHV area. This zone is already restricted seasonally. The DEIS also expands the boundaries of the Yellow Zone to include portions of the eastern dunes.

16D [The DEIS has not presented sufficient reasons why this area should be closed. It has not sufficiently examined the impact of this proposed closure on OHV recreation, which will concentrate an increasing number of recreationists in a smaller area. This will result in a diminished experience due to crowding, less variety, and increased safety problems

16E

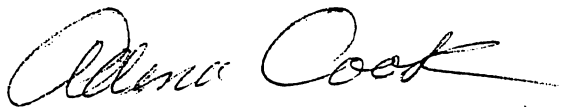
It has not considered the environmental effects of the closure on the open sand portions of the Yellow Zone. For example, OHVs help maintain open sand and prevent the encroachment of vegetation. Increased vegetation can encourage increased predation on shore dwelling species. The DEIS should consider how OHVs help maintain the open sand ecosystem of the dunes.

We support a modified Alternative D, which emphasizes recreation development. Opening part of the OHV closed Red Zone would have a positive impact on the dunes and recreation. Alternative D limits travel to designated roads and trails in the Yellow Zone. This should be modified to allow open travel in open sand areas.

The DEIS should acknowledge that the Yellow Zone is already seasonally restricted to OHVs. This restriction has been in effect for several years and serves to protect the area during wetter seasons. This mitigation has worked well; the DEIS does not make a case for further restrictions.

Thank you for your serious consideration of my comments. Please keep me informed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adena Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Adena" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Cook".

Adena Cook, Public Lands Director
Phone: 208-524-3062; Fax: 208-524-2836
e-mail: bradena@sharetrails.org

Central Basin Audubon Society
Post Office Box 86
Moses Lake, WA 98837

The purposes of the Society are Education, Conservation and Recreation, to encourage public appreciation of the values of Wildlife and Natural Habitats and to stimulate action for their protection.

March 26, 2001

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

Regarding the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan: Draft EIS, the Central Basin Audubon Society recommends you adopt the preferred alternative, Alternative B, with the following additions.

- 1.) Funding must be provided to study use and disturbance of habitat in the Dunes/Sand Island management area. Because there are no sanitation facilities, camping should be limited. Camping should be allowed on certain islands only, to be determined and posted by the WDFW in order to protect nesting areas on some islands. Seasonally restrict all watercraft to low speed/minimum wake operation in the Dunes/Sand Islands management area from April 15 through June 30 to enhance wildlife nesting and breeding success for grebes and colonial nesting birds.
- 2.) Prohibit motorized watercraft in Upper West Arm and East Lind Coulee Arm. Restrict watercraft to low speed/minimum wake operation in the Upper Crab Creek Arm year-round.
- 17 3.) Include as "Habitat Management Areas" the Upper West Arm, Upper Crab Creek, Peninsula South and East Lind Coulee Arm. These are all prime habitat areas, sensitive to human encroachment.
- 4.) In Habitat Management Areas use the word "restrict" motorized vehicles rather than "prohibit", as this would allow for the development of "Watchable Wildlife Areas".
- 5.) A specific area should be designated outside the four Habitat Management Areas for personal watercraft in order to protect shallow water nesting areas and shoreline habitat.
- 6.) Develop an advisory board made up of a representative from each interested organization (CBAS, DU, Pheasants Forever, ORVers, etc) to be overseen by WDFW.
- 7.) Close Power Line Road east of Crab Creek.

CBAS is grateful that the Bureau of Reclamation is concerned about wildlife and wildlife appreciation. Hopefully the new management plan will help to further educate the public about the sensitivity of this unique area so it can be enjoyed and appreciated by all segments of the population for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Teri J. Pieper, President
Central Basin Audubon Society

Columbia Basin Walleye Club
P.O. Box 1813
Moses Lake, Wa 98837

Mr Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
32 C Street, Rpx 815
Ephrata, Washington 98823

Letter 18

Dear Sir

The Columbia Basin Walleye Club would like to encourage your agency to support those specific items that maintain or improve the fisheries resource in the "Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement". Our group is a non profit organization located in Moses Lake dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of quality fishing in the Columbia Basin. We host and sponsor the one annual Walleye Tournament on the Potholes and it is the primary source of revenue to fund our conservation and enhancement activities. Last year was a complete disaster with 35 pair of the best Walleye anglers in the region fishing for 2 days with a total of only 9 legal fish registered. This compares with an average of 1.4 fish per angler for the similar tournament in 1994. Obviously significant changes have occurred in the Reservoir. We do not support any of the options in their entirety but would like to "Line Item Approve" specific actions that we feel are significant in our opinion to help restore the fishery.

We feel the following items are of prime importance;

- 18A [1) ORV Usage-- The operation of orv's in shoreline areas significantly affects the whole ecosystem by decreasing vegetation and insect life. Maintaining or increasing those areas has a negative impact on the fishery
- 18B [2) PWC Usage-- The operation at high speeds in shallow areas degrades the shoreline and destroys beaver huts that provide a sanctuary for fish. Limits must be enforced and areas protected
- 18C [3) Dispersed Campsites-- Produce human wastes that are released into the system that directly effect the water quality. Some existing samples indicate bad levels of fecal coliform already exist. Maintaining or increasing this activity has a significant effect.
- 18D [4) Insect Spraying -- Application of insecticides effects more that just mosquitos. Insects are a significant fish food supply and a balance must be maintained. Application and choice of chemicals must be fully researched and controls implemented.

While general in nature these items must be considered in each specific proposed Resource Management Plan.

While reviewing your document there are some items that we would like to comment on.

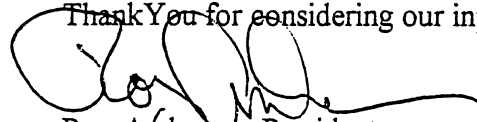
A) Walleyes were singled out as the major predators (along with cormorants)
In fact all species of fish are predatory in nature.

B) Manage Bass and Walleye tournaments. Existing WDFW rules are very specific and do a good job of protecting the resource. Additional Management is just "Over Kill"

Columbia Basin Walleye Club
P.O. Box 1813
Moses Lake, Wa 98837

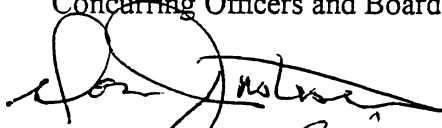
Our organization remains committed in any way possible to help maintain and enhance the fishery. We already contribute many hours and dollars to WFWD to support their efforts. Our tournament records of the Walleye tournaments are available if they can be used in any manner. Please contact me at 765-9412

Thank You for considering our input

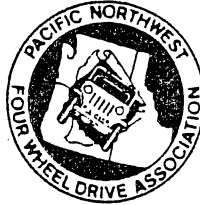


Roy Andrews - President
Columbia Basin Walleye Club

Concurring Officers and Board Members



Robert Elzig
Lila Elzig
Karen Andrews
James R. Johnson
John E. Bawie
Willis O. Chubb
David G. Smith



Letter 19

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST 4-WHEEL-DRIVE ASSOCIATION
OREGON — WASHINGTON — IDAHO**

March 24, 2001

Mr. Jim Blanchard
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, Washington 98823

RE: Potholes Reservoir Resource Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Dear Mr. Blanchard,

On behalf of eighty six clubs and over two thousand members of the Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association, I would like to submit the following in opposition to the DEIS - specifically the Moses Lake Sand Dunes preferred alternative - Alternative B.

Off road vehicle use has increased over the past four years since your "ORV Users Count On Sample Weekends" survey. I believe the Dame and Moore study (Table 3. 13-1) does not adequately reflect the numbers of user groups of today. With the popularity and increase of sales and off-roading, our membership has increased and feel the attendance at the Sand Dunes has also seen a surge in activities. For the general public and organized four wheel drive members, from the westside of the mountains and their interest in recreating in a sand dune environment, Moses Lake and Beverly ORV areas are the nearest to them.

Moses Lake Sand Dunes is a very popular family recreation site for all user groups. The Grant County Sheriff's office has acknowledged this by their press release, by imposing restrictions on its use beginning Memorial Day Weekend, "due to the large annual attendance and popularity".

The land in question that is administered by the Bureau and leased to the State of Washington, who in turn leases it to Grant County, faces the prospects of expiration. I'm sure closure would be the easiest way to simplify management for the agencies concerned.

With the Department of Wildlife's lease (State) at stake and their budget falls short of reinstating any long term agreement, a possible lease to Grant County could be considered as a solution. Also, since the Bureau does not have any enforcement powers and rely on the Grant County Sheriff's Department as their general law enforcement service -- again a solution for the management of the dunes.

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The ORV and Education & Enforcement funding for this area has been enormous through our gas tax dollars along with the time and energy spent by the local organized four wheel drive clubs on the annual litter cleanups, which I'm sure figures in as a savings to the County.

You have stated as some of the purposes and needs in the DEIS, as the "rising demand for increased recreation opportunities, visitor facilities, and support services". By a permanent closure of the Yellow Zone, recreation opportunities for the motorized community will be scaled down again and displaced recreationists will be seeking other sites to recreate on and put further impact on those areas.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the concerns of many on the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan - again we do not support Alternative B - the preferred alternative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlene Brooks".

Arlene Brooks, Washington State Director,
Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association
21520 SE 346th
Auburn, Washington 98092

Refer to Attachment A for a list of others submitting this letter.

20.

Dear Mr. Gray,

I am writing in regards to the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan: Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I urge you to adopt the preferred alternative, Alternative B. I support the many efforts in this Alternative to protect and enhance the Potholes area around the Potholes Reservoir. I am especially encouraged by the sections on Visitor Information and Interpretation and your emphasis on wildlife habitat protection. I encourage you to work closely with local groups, such as the Central Basin Audubon Society, when you begin to formalize plans for the various trails, signage, blinds, education and interpretive programs, visitor guides and maps and the development of an "Environmental Education Center". As a member of CBAS I encourage our group to participate fully in this important initiative laid out in the DEIS. Thanks for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

JANE Grant
Pirie f Grant

Refer to Attachment A for a list of others submitting this letter.

Date 4-9-01

Jim Blanchard
 Bureau of Reclamation
 P.O. Box 815
 Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

I enjoy OHV riding in the Moses Lake Sand Dunes area and wish to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan. Sand dunes provide a unique riding experience that is available in very few places. This very special riding experience should be supported, not further restricted.

21A [The DEIS' preferred alternative will close the Yellow Zone, which accounts for 44% of the OHV area. This zone is already restricted seasonally. The DEIS also expands the boundaries of the Yellow Zone to include portions of the eastern dunes. I oppose this closure.

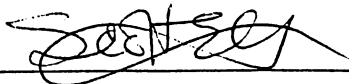
21B [The DEIS has not presented sufficient reasons why this area should be closed. It has not sufficiently examined the impact of this proposed closure on OHV recreation, which will concentrate an increasing number of recreationists in a smaller area. This will result in a diminished experience due to crowding, less variety, and increased safety problems. It has failed to consider the uniqueness of the dune riding experience.

21C [It has not considered the environmental effects of the closure on the open sand portions of the Yellow Zone. For example, OHVs help maintain open sand and prevent the encroachment of vegetation. Increased vegetation can encourage increased predation on shore dwelling species. The DEIS should consider how OHVs help maintain the open sand ecosystem of the dunes.

I support a modified Alternative D, which emphasizes recreation development. I support the part of D that opens part of the Red Zone, now closed. Alternative D limits travel to designated roads and trails in the Yellow Zone. This should be modified to allow open travel in open sand areas.

Thank you for your serious consideration of my comments. Please keep me informed.

Sincerely,



Signature

SCOTT ELLIS

Name

1808 3RD ST N.E

Address

EAST WENATCHEE WA 98802

City, State, Zip

Refer to Attachment A for a list of others submitting this letter.

Letter 22

3-31-01

Karen M. Ferguson
3242 H Street
Washougal, Wa. 98671
(360) 835-3166

March 20, 2001

Mr. Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
32 C Street Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

RE: Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

I would like to make the following comments for the records. Off road vehicle (ORV) recreation has increased dramatically in the past 4 years in the Moses Lake Sand Dunes. With the proposed year around closure of 1,459 acres (Yellow Zone) ORV users will be crowded into a shrinking area. Has consideration been given to the other areas that will be impacted by the closure in the Dunes?

Grant County ORV Deputies currently provide the enforcement for the Dunes. Closing the area to the public will be only creating more damage to the closed areas, more disturbances to wildlife and more enforcement problems.

I do not support the permanent closure of the Yellow zone. I request that the comment period be extended for 30 days.

Again, I do not support the permanent closure of the Yellow zone. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Ferguson
Pres. Washougal Beach 4x4 Club

Duplicate letters submitted by:

Russell Nickell
C. Dorene Bendickson
Cynthia J. Eddy

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
PO Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Sir,

I enjoy ORV riding in the Moses Lake Sand Dunes area and wish to comment on the draft environmental impact statement for the Potholes reservoir management plan. Sand dunes provide a unique riding experience that is available in very few places. This very special riding experience should be supported, not further restricted.

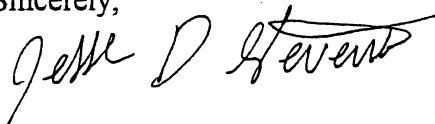
The DEIS preferred alternative will close the yellow zone, which accounts for 44% of the ORV area. This zone is already restricted seasonally. The DEIS also expands the boundaries of the yellow zone to include portions of the eastern dunes I oppose the closure.

The DEIS has not presented sufficient reason why this area should be closed. It has not sufficiently examined the impact of this proposed closure on ORV recreation, which will concentrate an increasing number of recreationists in a smaller area. This will result in a diminished experience due to crowding, less verity, and increased safety problems. It has failed to consider the uniqueness of the dune riding experience.

It has not considered the environmental effects of the closure on the open sand portions of the yellow zone. For example, ORVs help maintain open sand and prevent the encroachment of vegetation. Increase vegetation can encourage increased perdition on shore dwelling species. The DEIS should consider how ORVs help maintain the open sand ecosystem of the dunes.

I support a modified alternative D, which emphasizes recreation development. I support the part of D that opens part of the red zone, now closed. Alternative D limits travel to designated roads and trails in the yellow zone. This should be modified to allow all open travel in open sand areas. Thank you for your serious consideration of my comments. Please keep me informed.

Sincerely,



Jesse D Stevens
28 w 2nd St. apt. 202
Cheney, WA 99004

Duplicate letters submitted by:

Kenneth Lloyd, Moses Lake, WA
Richard Mulcahy, Olympia, WA
Larry K. Dewitz, Wenatchee, WA
Susan R. McGriff, Wenatchee, WA

Sand Maps
PO Box 581
Keyport, WA 98345
21 March 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
PO Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Sir:

I have reviewed the document "Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement: January 2001" and have developed the following list of items that seem to be inconsistent with my observations and experience.

- 24A [1. The Power Line Road is documented in the report numerous places as being open at the same time as Yellow Zone. The Grant County Sheriff's office and the ORV enforcement officers make it very clear to anyone who asks it that the Power Line Road is enforced as though it were in the Red Zone and anyone using will be prosecuted. This needs to be changed in the document. The first paragraph on page 3-84 indicates that access is gained "through vandalized gates at the entrance to Powerline Road."
2. The O'Sullivan Site is referenced several times early in the document but the term is not defined until Figure 2-2.1 and Figure 2-2.2 between page 2-32 and 2-33. The term should be defined earlier in the document.
- 24B [3. In Table 2.3 the statistics for ORV use is very misleading. All the other categories list acres within the study area. The statistics for ORV use also includes the adjacent Grant County ORV park. To be fair and accurate, the statistics in this table should only include the acres within the study area.
- 24C [4. On page 2-51, the plan includes making ORV parking areas on the east side of Sand Dune Road in the Red Zone. There is no Legal access to this area in any of the Alternatives for ORVs so parking is not needed for ORVs. Pedestrian access to the walk in waterfront sites would benefit from Automobile parking areas.
- 24D [5. Appendix E references several maps. Are these the maps in Figure 3.4-1 and 3.4-4? If this is true, they should be called out appropriately in the appendix. If these are not the proper maps, the correct ones should be included.
- 24E [6. Table 3.4-3 needs a balance check. "Exposed" is only shown for the Eastern Dunes area. There should be a cross referenced table where the columns and rows add up to form sums for each area and for each type of surface. According to the table, there is no "Exposed" cover type anywhere else in the study area while Figure 3.4-1 indicates there is "Exposed" cover in nearly all portions of the study area. This table should be reconciled with Table 3.4-2 and Table 2 in appendix E. It cannot be reconciled in its present form.
- 24F [7. In Figure 3.12-1,
 - There are two more irrigation circles in Township 15 and 22 than are shown.
 - Eastern Bluffs is marked as being leased to Grant County for an ORV park, yet the area is fenced and marked for ORVs to KEEP OUT.
 - There is no ORV usage shown in Townships 09 and 16 which are part of the ORV park.
- 24G [8. On page 3-79, a survey was conducted and the results completely ignore the existence of ORV users. Is it possible that the survey was handed out at the south end of the reservoir causing the North end users to be neglected? If this is the case, another study should be done to represent the north end users as well as the south end users.
- 24H [9. On page 3-83, it is stated that there is only one trash receptacle in the ORV area. This is not true. There is another trash receptacle of the same size at First Lot at the south end of Potato Hill Road about a quarter mile south of the end of the pavement.

24I

10. On page 3-83, it states that there were no groups of riders in the Yellow Zone during Labor Day weekend. We were there in 1999 shooting video. The area was unusually quiet on Saturday with a little more activity on Sunday. In the videos we shot, there were three groups out there while we had the camera running. There was actually considerably more activity the weekend of September 25th than there was on Labor Day weekend.

24J

11. According to Appendix E, Table 2, Yellow Zone has only 16 Acres of "Exposed" cover type. This is inconsistent with the statement on page 4-25 that there are 37 acres of trails in the Yellow Zone. According to the second paragraph on 4-40, 15 miles of trails represent 3% of the surface area of Yellow Zone is trails. In 30 years of use, this represents 0.1% loss of cover per year. Left untreated, this trend would produce a barren landscape in 1000 years. I believe this loss rate is trivial in the grand scheme of the Cosmos and can be stopped and reversed by reasonable rules, explicit signs and reasonable enforcement.

12. I have observed "Trail Pioneering" in the Yellow Zone on the part of numerous individuals for several reasons. Each of these can be mitigated with a combination of remedies

24K

- Trail Blockage due to high water. Commonly occurs inland from the beach. If a water crossing is too deep, the present common alternative is to drive around it even if the brush gets smashed. The remedy is to close the trail during high water or move the trail to higher ground. A sign posting that "it is illegal to damage brush by driving on it" would be appropriate at this location.
- Excessive traverse slope on a section of trail. Commonly occurs on the north and west side of Dewey's bowl (47 degrees 2.0 minutes North latitude, 119 degrees 19.2 minutes west longitude) where the bank is so steep that trucks, Jeeps, and ATVs cannot traverse without rolling over into the water. The present common alternative is to drive up to the top of the bank and travel parallel to the beach until it is level enough to not roll over. The remedy for this situation is to provide an "approved trail" around the dangerous section of trail.
- Trail Erosion due to Crab Creek meandering east several hundred feet. This happens every time the creek changes channels. I have seen it happen every year. A new beach will form where the sand falls into the creek. The present common alternative is to travel parallel to the beach until the trail rejoins the original trail. The remedy for this situation is to provide an "approved trail" around the section of trail that fell into the creek.
- Getting lost. This happens a lot to individuals new to the area who do not have an experienced guide with them. They usually get somewhere near Dewey's bowl and can't find the trail back to the Yellow Sign Trail. When they get low on fuel, they decide to head east and run into the next inlet and follow it north until it connects to the Yellow Sign Trail. There is a lot of damage to the brush in this area. A new trail around the head of the bay came about because so many people tried this method to get out of the area. The remedy for this situation is to provide trail markers close enough together to allow beginners to get out of the area without resorting to this option. These markers could be numbered to aid rescue workers finding lost or injured riders who call in on CB or cell phones.

My sincere wish is that Yellow Zone beaches and mud flats stay open for ORV use during the month of September. Earlier than this, the water level is too high for sand bar driving. The beaches, the water crossings and the mud flats are the attractions that interest me. This includes all the mud flats and beaches from the Eastern Bluffs to the Power Line. There is no place like it anywhere else in the world. Please keep the mud flats open even if the interior of Yellow Zone is restricted. The DEIS does not provide any evidence that these should be closed

Joe Smalley

Sand Maps
PO Box 581
Keyport, WA 98345
21 March 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
PO Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Resource Management Plan for Potholes Reservoir, Grant County Washington

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Resource Management Plan for Potholes Reservoir was published in January 2001 describing four alternatives for managing this area for the future of the area. The document contains an enormous amount of data and information about the interaction between the fish, the wildlife, the birds and the users of this area. I have read the document from cover to cover and have some concerns about the decisions that can be made based on this information and the public opinion voiced at a land use hearing 13 March 2001 in Moses Lake.

- 25A [In the first place, much of the opinion in the body of the DEIS does not match with my experience.
- The amount of Off Road Vehicle (ORV) trails in the Yellow Zone inventory is overstated by a factor of four.
 - The opinion about the amount of new trails being made in the in the Yellow Zone is grossly overstated.
 - Yellow Zone is described as being restorable when a large part of it is underwater 10 months of the year making it non restorable.
 - Yellow Zone is not a homogeneous area and the DEIS treats it as such.
- 25B [The DEIS conflicts with itself in many areas such as:
- Appendix E states the "exposed" area dropped from 259 acres to 16 acres in 30 years while the text of the document claims that ORV use is responsible for destroying the ground cover.
 - Appendix E states the vegetation has been altered throughout the region by overgrazing, wildfire and rising water table behind the dam while the text blames it on ORV use.
 - The economic impact of the alternatives are biased against the ORV tourists. In one place, it states that closing almost half the area will have negligible effect on the local economy and in another place it states that opening less than 5% more area will have a significant impact.
- 25C [
- The cover type inventories do not match between the text and Appendix E. The text tables do not sum up to 100% whereas the Appendix E tables do total up to 100%.
- 25D [
- The text of the DEIS admits the ORV user counts are artificially low.
- 25E [The DEIS fails to address the needs of the north end users.
- The survey results reflect no input from the north end users even though the text admits that most users access the area from the north.
 - The recommendations aggravate the overcrowding problem at the north end of the reservoir by significantly reducing the land available for camping and ORV use.

The DEIS does not address:

- The expected costs of habitat restoration.
- The probability of successful habitat restoration.
- Who is going to be responsible to do the habitat restoration.

I sincerely doubt the state of Washington has enough money to successfully restore the habitat of this area to what it was a century ago. It is foolishness to spend so much money for so little return on investment. I

believe the present land use is logical and well reasoned. Yellow Zone is open 3 months a year when the water is low enough to drive on the beaches and sand bars. This schedule leaves the area totally untouched for the remaining 9 months. The birds and fish have about 36000 acres outside of Yellow Zone that is already protected. 1450 acres of ORV area is about 4% of the total area of the DEIS and is producing about 97% of the conflict with the current user base.

25F

It makes sense to leave the ORV area as it is presently defined. The area is separated from the rest of the DEIS area by Crab Creek. The ORV trails are in place and the DEIS states it would take active restoration effort to restore the trails to productive habitat if it is even possible.

I am very concerned the decisions made based on this flawed DEIS will damage the local economy by shrinking a very popular regional camping area and forcing many of the users to vacation in Oregon instead of Washington. As evidenced at the land use hearings in Moses Lake on 13 March 2001, there are hundreds of campers in the local area, within the state of Washington and throughout the region that want this area kept open and to be bigger instead of smaller.

25G

Putting my conservation hat on and looking at the situation, I would do the following:

- Do a fine scale inventory of the Yellow Zone habitat using polygons smaller than 3 acres.
- Install fences with gates to control off season intruders.
- Install good signs to inform users of the rules and regulations.
- Open the Red Zone area between Sand Dune Road and Moses Lake for ORV camping.
- Develop the O'Sullivan site as a pay campground with ORV Yellow Zone regulations .
- Consider the beach north of the O'Sullivan site to be part of Yellow Zone.
- Keep the Eastern Dunes area open as it is now.
- Manage the power line road as part of Yellow Zone, not as Red Zone.
- Put a boat ramp, day use parking lot and a restroom at the west end of the power line road.
- Increase law enforcement presence in the campgrounds with a campground host program.
- Charge an entry fee for weekend use to pay for law enforcement and garbage service.

Oregon Dunes National Recreational Area and Sand Lake ORV Area provide two good models for managing an ORV area and a campground as a sustainable asset. Both of these areas strike a balance between protecting sensitive habitat and allowing people to enjoy the area using ORVs.

The user count in the ORV area is increasing every year and the ORV area needs to grow as well. Making bad decisions based on the flawed DEIS is bad policy. The DEIS needs to accurately reflect reality so land use managers can make good decisions. The DEIS in its present form prevents the managers from seeing an accurate view of the user needs.

Joe Smalley, Proprietor
Sand Maps, Keyport WA

Sand Maps
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Keyport, WA 98345
21 March 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
PO Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Resource Management Plan for Potholes Reservoir, Grant County Washington

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Resource Management Plan for Potholes Reservoir was published in January 2001 describing four alternatives for managing this area for the future of the area. The document contains an enormous amount of data and information about the interaction between the fish, the wildlife, the birds and the users of this area. I have read the document from cover to cover and have some concerns about the decisions that can be made based on this information and the public opinion voiced at a land use hearing 13 March 2001 in Moses Lake.

My business makes maps of Off Road Vehicle (ORV) areas. The Potholes area is the first one I did. To perform the trail mapping process, I instrument a Sand Rail with a Global Positioning System (GPS) Receiver and a video camera. I then go to an area and drive every trail in the area to get a record of the type of trail and where each trail is located. The trail lines are then overlaid on an aerial photograph and the legend and Lat/Lon grid are added. The whole process takes about a month.

I was unable to finish mapping all of Yellow Zone (the part of the ORV area that is within the Potholes Reservoir area being studied that is open from 1 July to 1 October) in 1999 and I had to return in 2000 to finish the process. The DEIS states that there are 37 miles of trail in the Yellow Zone that cover 15 acres causing that much area to be non productive. When I measure the amount of trail in the area, I struggle with the definition of "trail" and needed to break it down into four sub types:

1. Sand Bars with water on both sides of the trail
2. Beaches with water on one side of the trail and vegetation on the other side
3. Trail with vegetation on both sides of the trail, and
4. Traverses with vegetation on the upper side but fall steeply into the water on the other.

My calculations indicate there are only 8.9 miles of type 3 trail in Yellow Zone. The other three types of trail are subject to annual inundation for as much as 10 months of the year and are not restorable. My conclusion is that the amount of trail in the area is overstated and that only 24% of the trail has any hope of restoration.

In the process of running all the trails in Yellow Zone and video taping most of the trails on these two consecutive years, I observed only about 200 yards of new trail being "pioneered" each year. In two cases, the trail was washed out by Crab Creek changing channel and taking out about 100 yards of trail. The trail users compensated by traveling parallel to the old trail about 10 feet inland from the washout. When the washout ended, the new trail rejoined the original trail. No more vegetation was damaged than was necessary to restore the continuity of the trail system. Since this trail damage issue has been bypassed, the trail "pioneering" as the DEIS calls it, is over in these two locations until the creek changes course again. The creek changes course constantly and will eventually produce another washout.

In two other areas, the trail followed a challenging route that traversed a very steep west slope of the dune that was too steep for novice All Terrain Vehicles (ATV a.k.a. four wheelers) or Jeeps or pickup trucks to safely negotiate. This trail has always been a safety problem with children traveling with our group on their ATVs. To make this section of trail safer, the Jeeps and pickup trucks started following along the brow of the hill instead of along the steep slip face of the dune. Once this trail was established, all the children and novice riders used it to avoid the hazard posed by the steep slope. This process occurred in

two locations in Yellow Zone in two successive years. Since this safety issue has been bypassed, the trail "pioneering" as the DEIS calls it, is over in these two locations.

26A

Appendix E of the DEIS indicates historically that there were 259 acres of "exposed" (barren) ground in the Yellow Zone. Since the report writers were using aerial photos from 1964, I assume this is the baseline for their research. The current survey, which I believe is based on 1994 data, indicates only 16 acres of "exposed" ground. The total acreage for the two inventories are the same, therefore I conclude the water level for the two surveys are the same. From this data in the DEIS, I can see that the ORV users are not making any more ground "exposed" and there is actually another process at work in this area. The text references the practice of "overgrazing" around the turn of the century (1900) and wildfires that consumed the area shortly thereafter. The reservoir was filled around 1950 which brought the water table up (to the surface in many places) and flooded the potholes area. The combination of overgrazing, wildfire and the increase in the available water has forever changed the landscape and vegetation coverage. The problem is not just Yellow Zone. It permeates the entire region. Non-native species of plants and birds have taken over the area. There is a lot of talk in the DEIS about restoring the area. The area is not restorable to its original condition because of the overgrazing, wildfire and flooding. To try to reverse these changes would be overwhelmingly expensive. The problem is not ORV use in the Yellow Zone. It is a noxious weed and alien species problem. Closing Yellow Zone to ORV use will not eliminate the problem. It will only cause more overcrowding of the remaining ORV area.

The Grant County ORV area was not very well defined in 1950 but was used by the local residents as a place to ride motorcycles and play with the early sand buggies. As the area developed, the area changed from grazing land to farmland. ORV use became more consolidated in the existing area. About 1990, about 1280 acres were converted from ORV use to agricultural use by plowing the dunes flat and installation of rotary irrigation systems. Potatoes and corn grow where we once played in the sand. The area was reduced to about 3396 acres. The 1459 acre Yellow Zone is open only 3 months a year and the remainder was open 12 months a year. I have been going to this area every year since 1974 to either camp or ride motorcycles or drive sand buggies. In that time, I have seen the area get more and more crowded. It got so bad last year, that I did not want to come back on any more 3-day weekends because of the overcrowding problems. This year, I have heard that there is an effort to limit the people getting into the area by implementing a pre-registration process and granting tickets to qualified applicants. This will relieve the overcrowding problems but at the expense of limiting the number of people that will be able to visit the area. A better solution would be to open more campgrounds and more riding area. The effort to close down Yellow Zone (1450 acres) and Eastern Dunes (320 acres) will cause even more overcrowding problems. Opening Eastern Bluffs (area not specified) and the O'Sullivan site would provide additional trail mileage and camping space to relieve the overcrowding situation.

26B

There is discussion about making land use decisions in the DEIS that will permanently change the habitat of the Potholes area. The DEIS talks about putting Potholes State Park on the south shore of Potholes Reservoir. The action of putting in parking lots, campsites, restrooms, planting poplar trees and grass has permanently changed the landscape. This area cannot be restored to its original condition. Removing all the pavement, plumbing, wiring and vegetation would disrupt the natural processes so much that it could never be productive habitat again. This happened to the Green Zone when the irrigated fields took over the space previously occupied by part of the ORV area. The plumbing and wiring could be taken out but the dunes are flat and it takes a long time to build good dunes. If the dunes were plowed back into piles, the vegetation would not return without active restoration. The decisions made based on the DEIS will have similar permanent effects on the land for generations to come. The DEIS needs to better reflect reality than the present document.

The Grant County ORV area was designed to draw ORV behavior to a central location so it could be monitored and controlled. Just like a playground in a neighborhood, the land is transformed into something that the residents will enjoy. The former vegetation and former residents of the location are gone and the public gets a facility that they can enjoy as a group. The Grant County ORV area is a playground for both kids and adults. It is one of the very few places where families can enjoy motorsports

as a family and all the members of the family can ride together regardless of their personal athletic or equipment abilities. The Grant County ORV area has been chosen as one of the best ORV areas in the nation and is by far the best place in the state of Washington to camp and drive sand buggies. By consolidating ORV use in this area, it reduces the burden on the other ORV areas in the state.

26C

In my travels around Yellow Zone, I have seen deer, beaver, ducks, coyote, snakes and too many kinds of fish and birds to mention. We sometimes just sit and watch. There are some areas in the northern part of Yellow Zone that are viable habitat that might be worth preserving. It seems to be doing just fine as long as there is no illegal behavior on the part of the visitors. A fine scope inventory is needed to determine how much is worth preserving and how to do it. The trails in this area are subject to noxious weed infestation. If the ORV users are denied access to this area, the trails will be quickly claimed by the noxious weeds. Control of the noxious weeds will need to happen very soon after the trails are abandoned. Keeping the trails open helps controls the noxious weed population.

26D

The southern part of Yellow Zone is under water 10 months of the year and is not viable habitat for mammals. ORV use of this area should not be denied based on a recommendation of preservation for the northern part of Yellow Zone. The sand bars at the south end of Yellow Zone and the habitat at the north end of Yellow Zone should be separated for recommendation, not combined like they are in the present DEIS.

26E

In the process of preparing the DEIS, a user survey was done by passing out survey pamphlets to the area users. None of the needs or preferences of the users at the north end of the reservoir are listed in the results of the survey even though the DEIS states that many users access the study area from the north. The results of the survey are highly biased to the needs of the south end users. It is possible to bias a survey by several methods: The surveys were not handed out at the north end of the reservoir, or the north end users failed to respond to the survey, or the survey tabulation ignored the north end users in the evaluation. There is not enough evidence in the DEIS to make this determination. I believe the north end user needs should be better represented in the decisions and the DEIS decisions should not be so highly biased to the south end users.

26F

It was discouraging to read the list of contributors to the DEIS and find no ORV user organizations, no motorcycle dealer organization, no Jeep clubs, no motorcycle clubs, and no state government agencies for outdoor recreation. These organizations represent users of the ORV area and Yellow Zone. It is necessary for these types of organizations to be involved with land use planning to get balance in land use. When the DEIS is issued, these organizations have to fight the uphill battle to change the biologists' recommendations back to a good compromise between letting people use an area and keeping everyone out. The Study Area is 36000 acres. Yellow Zone is about 3% of the study area. Eastern Dunes is less than 1% of the study area. These areas are contiguous, presently used for ORV use and cannot be fully restored to their original habitat because of the previously stated reasons. These areas have far more value to the local visitor economy and the local user base as ORV areas than as places to try restoration efforts that are destined to fail.

The DEIS recommends turning over management of the area and enforcement of the regulations to either the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) or the Washington State Parks Recreation Commission (SPRC). A major concern of mine is that the agency with authority over this area must be fully staffed, trained and funded to manage this land properly. A former employee of WDFW testified that they do not have the resources to manage this area effectively. I have seen state parks closed near me for "lack of operating funds". I lack confidence that either of these agencies can do an adequate job managing this large area.

26G

Putting my conservation hat on and looking at the situation, I would do the following:

- Do a fine scale inventory of the Yellow Zone habitat using polygons smaller than 3 acres.
- Assess the restoration capacity of each polygon in the presence and absence of ORV use.

26G

- See if the acreage is in large enough chunks to fence off for protection.
- Determine if the cost of fencing is prohibitive and make a decision to fence or not to fence.
- Keep all unfenced areas open to the public with ORV Yellow Zone regulations.
- Install fences with gates to control off season intruders.
- Install good signs to inform users of the rules and regulations.
- Patrol the area on weekends.
- Open the Red Zone area between Sand Dune Road and Moses Lake as far north as the dam.
- Develop the O'Sullivan site as a pay campground with ORV Yellow Zone regulations .
- Open the beach from the O'Sullivan site to the present Yellow Zone with Yellow Zone regulations.
- Open the Eastern Bluffs area for dispersed camping on three day weekends.
- Keep the Eastern Dunes area open year round.
- Manage the power line road as part of Yellow Zone, not as Red Zone.
- Put a boat ramp, day use parking lot and a restroom at the west end of the power line road.
- Increase law enforcement presence in the campgrounds with a campground host program.

In summary; The conservation option will reduce the ORV area from 3396 acres to 1227 (or 320) acres (Table 2-3 page 2-26 and Table 2-1 page 2-14) and will change the ORV area from a regional meeting place to a local lot. The recommended option will reduce the ORV area from 3396 acres to 1895 acres (Table 2-3 page 2-26). The recreational option will reduce the ORV area from 3396 acres to 1932 acres (Table 2-3 page 2-26). None of these options will increase the size of the ORV area and all of them will substantially decrease the size of the ORV area with no guarantee of successful habitat restoration. I have no problem with the birds and the fish getting 33000 acres of Potholes managed for their benefit. I do have a problem with the ORV users losing 91% to 43% of their present area for no significant increase in the usable wildlife habitat.

Joe Smalley, Proprietor
Sand Maps, Keyport WA

Rich Archer
223 Sharon Ave.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
509-765-9370

Bureau of Reclamation
P. O. Box 15
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Sirs,

Our group of ORV users, The Sand Commandos, the Sand Scorpions, and Save our Sands, have been monitoring the sand dunes since the early 1970's. We have organized many cleanups throughout the years. We have also purchased permanent outhouses, have created garbage dump sites, and provide ORV management and law enforcement through Grant County Sheriff's Office. We, the users, through IAC and NOVA finance two full time ORV officers. We provide them with money for wages, insurance, uniforms, education and training. We also provide them with two ORV 4x4 pickups, and several ORV quads to facilitate their patrol of the sand dunes area. We also, through Grant County 5 Fire Dept., have built an off road ambulance which is stored 1/4 mile from the sand dunes. Therefore we have a vested interest in the sand dunes and the outcome of the most recent DEIS.

27A Another matter that must be covered is the lack of proof reading of the addresses of those who were to be advised of the open meetings. Many times these letters were sent to seemingly fictitious persons. For instance, the letter which was for my information was addressed to Penny and Rich TURPIN. The address was correct but not the name. It disturbs me that the mailing list prepared by Dames and Moore was obviously meant to go to the dead letter office of the Post Office. Because the TURPINs have never lived at my address. Had my wife and I not lived at this address for 21 years we may not have received this very important piece of mail. After I received this letter with the wrong surname, I looked at the DEIS proposal, Appendix C Distribution List. On this list I located the name Judith Turpin. I could not but wonder where her mail ended up. I soon began to call people on the list who are known to me personally. I asked them if they had received the notice from Dames and Moore and whether the names and addresses were correct. I spoke with thirteen different people and five had received the letter from Dames and Moore. But LO and BEHOLD every one had the wrong surname. It is not any wonder that the other eight interested parties had not received a letter. On Monday, March 12, 2001, my wife Penny called Dames and Moore and spoke with Mr. Dautis Pearson and told him of our concerns about the incorrect surnames and addresses. He seemed unaware of any problems with the mailing list, became very defensive and stated that this was not a conspiracy. Penny replied that conspiracy was his word not hers. Penny then asked to speak with Jonathan Beck, who was the person listed to contact for information. He also was unaware of the problem and stated he would look into it. He called back shortly thereafter and verified that there was a

problem with the mailing list. He had compared an older mailing list with the most recent list and stated there must have been a problem with the operator of the program and they would look into it. Poor operator, it's always "his" fault. After the open meeting on March 13th, I asked Mr. Pearson what could be done to correct the errors on the mailing list. He stated that the problem had been located and repaired and that future mailings would be correct. These public hearings are supposedly set up to keep interested parties informed of the recommendations of the DEIS for our own back yard, the O'Sullivan Pot Holes Reservoir and Moses Lake Sand Dunes. It seems highly unlikely that interested people will be notified of these hearings in a timely manner if they are routinely sent to incorrect names at incorrect addresses. It seems that to be entirely fair, other hearings should be scheduled and letters of notification sent to interested persons using their correct surnames and correct addresses. At the least. Our group of ORV users monitored the local news media to assure that the public was aware of these hearings. No notices were ever seen or heard. We were so concerned about lack of media coverage that we ran an advertisement in the local newspaper to alert readers of these hearings.

27B

When the tax payers hire a firm to produce a document of this magnitude, we expect to get a well prepared document and be fully informed along the way. The errors which occurred with the last notification, not only shakes our faith in the different factions who want to take control of the ORV park and systemically close it down, despite what the local users want and despite what the local population wants. It is not only ORV users who are concerned about this DEIS but the general population of Grant County. The DEIS was supposed to balance recreation, wild life habitat, Washington State parks, and the local economy. We are not asking for a lot. Our ORV area represents less than 2% of the area set aside for wild life use in the Moses Lake area. Part of the Sand Dunes area is closed off during certain times of the year to facilitate bird nesting. At another time of the year it is closed off for hunters and fishermen. This is a well thought out plan which benefits EVERYONE not just ORV users. For quite some time this has worked for all.

I, and several other ORV users, were involved in the initial planning of this DEIS. When the document, which we had helped to prepare was completed, we found that it had been totally changed from the original which had been all of us had discussed. This DEIS as it now reads is slanted to the extent that we have been purposefully portrayed as ORV abusers who have no concern for the impact caused by ORV use. The exact opposite is true. We are very protective of our ORV area. Many of us began going to the sand dunes when they were still wild and unused. Now we take our children and grandchildren. We take them to stress safety while riding. We teach them to protect the wild life and have respect for the dunes, its environment, and its beauty. To us this is a unique area to be treasured - not shut off from the people who live here or those who travel many miles to enjoy this area.

Sand Dune User
Richard M. Arch



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet Bureau of Reclamation

Name: Jason R. Huff

Address: 250E NW. Rude Rd.

Poulsbo, WA, 98370

Comments:

My family and I have enjoyed the Potholes Reservoir on a number of occasions over the years. I was deeply disturbed when I had the opportunity to review the DEIS for the resource management Plan for Potholes Reservoir. I am fortunate enough to enjoy this area and all it offers as many different birds - as a sportsman (hunting/fishing) and as an ORV owner/user. Few places offer the variety or diversity of this unique Ecosystem. It is on that land I felt compelled to respond. Man imposed his will upon this landscape and forever altered it - that's how it was created - Let's leave well enough alone here. The idea that we can impose our will for a second time in manners which hold far to much speculation & conjecture rather than fact and science is alarming. Proper management (a word not at all reflected by WDFW or SPRC) can allow for the fish, birds, deer, vegetation and ORV users to exist symbiotically. ORV users losing 43 to 64% of their present area for no significant increase in the usable wild life habitat is just poor management. *g. J. Huff*

28A

28B

Letter 29

James Blanchard - potholes comment

From: httpd@borworld.usbr.gov
 To: <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
 Date: 3/23/01 8:28 AM
 Subject: potholes comment

 From Robert Brooks () on Friday, March 23, 2001 at 09:27:50

address: 21520 SE 346th
 Auburn, Washington 98092

- 29A [message: I am requesting for a 30 day extention on the comment period for the Potholes Reservoir DEIS: Moses Lake Sand Dunes. I have reviewed the summsry and beieve there are many questions that haven't been addressed.
- 29B [There has been a large increase in purchasing of 4x4 vehicles - the ORV user count you did sounds as somewhat outdated - when was this survey done?
 You indicate Alternative B as the perfered solution.
- 29C [Where will the displaced recreationlists go if the Yellow Zone is designsted as closed? How much damage was done to this area to have it deemed closed?
- 29D [Did you have motorized recreation involved in this study? All user groups should have had input to the BR since this is such a popular location to visit.
 I do not support the permanent closure of the Yellow Zone and again ask that a 30 day extention be adressed for futher comments.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Submit: Submit

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P. O. Box 15
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard

As a member of the Moses Lake community and a frequent visitor to the San Dunes, I want to make the following comments about the alternatives for use proposed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Pot Holes Reservoir Resource Management Plan.

Alternative A - No action to the laws, policies or regulations

30A [Alternative B - Preferred by Bureau of Reclamation - combines features of Alternative C and D. The main restriction is closing the Yellow Zone. The Yellow Zone encompasses 44% of the ORV area and is now closed to motor vehicle travel and only open for use from July 1 through October 1. The Grant County ORV area would limit the existing Green Zone only to "open year round" ORV riding. The DEIS does not present sufficient reasons why this area should be closed.

30B [Alternative C - Preservation and Enhancement - no new developments would be constructed except to meet basic minimum facilities. With more of the primitive road area network closed to motorized travel, fewer areas would be accessible leading to more crowding. ORV use would be discontinued by permanently closing the Yellow Zone and a portion of the Green Zone. This alternative does not consider the environmental effects of the closure on the open sand portion of the Yellow Zone. ORV's help maintain the open sand ecosystem and prevents encroachment of vegetation which encourages increased predation on shore dwelling species.

30C [Alternative D - emphasizes Recreation Development - ORV opportunities would be expanded by allowing ORV riding along several designated trails leading to the Western shore of Moses Lake. Activities would be generally focused and managed within environmentally suitable areas to reduce resource impacts and disturbances. Opening designated areas of part of the Red Zone to sand dunes accessibility would help reduce resource impact and disturbances. Agrees with some portions of B and C.

The sand dunes provide a unique experience for local families and well as ORV riders. Many residents went there as young people, taught their children safe operation of ORVs, picniced, enjoyed fun, sun and family. These children are now teaching their children rules, regulations and safety. The people of Grant County have a great respect for the dunes.

I support Alternative D which limits travel to designated roads and trails in the Yellow Zone, no closure of any part of the Green Zone, plus opening a portion of the Red Zone under strict guidelines.

Please consider these comments and keep me informed as events progress.

Frances Jones
535 Castle Dr
Moses Lake WA 98837

March 20, 2001

Mr. Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
32 C Street Bpx 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

re: Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

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LND-8.00


31A I have reviewed the DEIS and would like to make the following comments for the comments for the record. I question the number of users as sated in Table 3.13-1 "ORV Users Counts on Sample Weekends." Is this accurate for 2001 or 1996? Off road vehicle (ORV) recreation has increased dramatically in the past 4 years in the Moses Lake Sand Dunes. With the proposed year around closure of 1,459 acres (Yellow Zone) ORV users will be crowded into a shrinking area. Has consideration been given to the other areas that will be impacted by the closure in the Dunes?

31C Grant County ORV Deputies currently provide the enforcement for the Dunes. The ORV Deputies are funded by grants from the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) NOVA (Nonhighway and Off Road Vehicle Activities) program. The NOVA program is a user funded program and it would not be popular to provide funding to eliminate ORV activities. Closing the area to the public will be only create more damage to the closed areas, more disturbance to wildlife and more enforcement problems.

31D How much damage has occurred in the Yellow Zone? Has the Yellow Zone been actively managed? If not, then the problem gets worse. I do not support the permanent closure of the Yellow zone.

31E I also reviewed the organizations that received the EIS. I did not see any ORV recreation organizations listed. Why when the ORV users are directly affected by the closure did not one ORV organization receive the EIS?

Again, I do not support the permanent closure of the Yellow Zone. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Jensen
946-18th
Longview, WA 98632

Jim Blanchard
Ephrata Field Office
Bureau of Reclamation
32 "C" Street N.W.
Ephrata, WA 98832

Dear Sir:

32A

I am writing in response to the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Grant County, Washington, January, 2001. The first sentence says, "The purpose of developing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Potholes Reservoir is to balance resource protection and conservation objectives with the rising demand for increased recreation opportunities, visitor facilities, and support services". My concerns are related to the word balance. In reading the draft, Chapter 5, it indicates that 1,500 of the 4,000 people who initially received letters relating to this project were registered campers at Potholes State Park. State Park campers are a very different group than those who utilize the ORV Park and other dispersed camping areas. The study does not list how those of us who utilize the dispersed camping areas and the Sand Dunes ORV Park were sampled. This does not sound balanced in the sample population consulted. The draft also indicates that much of the publicity was on the West part of the state, not a mention of the Spokane paper, The Spokesman Review, where there are often articles related to the entire Columbia Basin, including the opportunities for recreation in the Potholes area.

The study is extensive in studying the habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife, as well as to the plants and water, however, in searching the draft for the human component, it was but briefly mentioned that recreation consisting of fishing, camping, boating, off-road vehicle (ORV) riding, and wildlife observation are some of the most popular activities. It does report in many places that people cause problems in many ways. I do have a problem with the negative tone in regards to people using the land that I do believe our tax dollars are what have been and are utilized in this area. Yes, a few do cause a mess, and many of us who live locally go in and clean up the mess. I know what an intensive "Pack It In, Pack It Out" message does to keep an area clean. This is needed in the Sand Dunes.

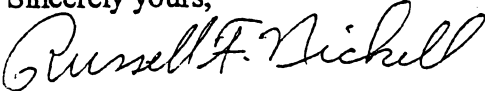
32B

I have been going into the Sand Dunes for several years and I believe that keeping the ORV Park the size that it now is will continue to keep ORV people in the park and not on the surrounding land. Today I traveled the Sand Dunes road all the way around from Potato Hill Road to Highway 90 and there were many vehicles in the ORV Park area, some at the South Dam and only one at the North Dam. There was only one spot in the Red Area that I noted fresh vehicle tracks off the road. I believe if the ORV Park is made smaller, there will be many, many places in the West that will see an increased use of unauthorized ORV vehicles. It has been reported to me that, depending on which reporter you read, the Sand Dunes ORV Park is 10th or 20th best in the United States. It will also adversely affect the economy of the local towns if this unique location is removed or reduced in size so fewer people will be able to use it or it will be so crowded that everyone's experience is impacted.

Going back to balance, I have been told that there is approximately 272,000 acres of reserve area for habitat for plants, birds, reptiles, and wildlife nearby and this Sand Dunes ORV Park is only 3,354 acres, according to this draft. Please keep this area as it is. That would be Alternative A.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell F. Nickell".

Russell F. Nickell
4285 Moon Dr. NE
Moses Lake, WA 98837
509 765 4414

cc: U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Boise, Idaho 83702

Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Washington, D.C. 20500

March 26, 2001

P.O. Box 2195
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 813
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

This letter is in response to the Bureau of Reclamation's proposal to restrict public use in the Moses Lake Sand Dunes. As a resident of Grant County and as a homeowner landowner, I offering the following as public testimony on the issue of further restricting access in the Sand Dunes to off-road enthusiasts. I support the Bureau of Reclamation's proposal to protect the fragile environment of the Moses Lake Sand Dunes area.

In the past five years, Washington State has witnessed seemingly unbridled urban sprawl. The conversion of open land to housing tracts or to commercial developments along with a corresponding encroachment into sensitive areas is unsettling. Grant County has not been an exception. As open areas become less accessible to the general public and as private lands are withdrawn from public use, management of public resources by federal and state agencies must reflect a stewardship ethic that resonates the needs of all stakeholders.

As public land, the Sand Dunes area must be managed to derive the greatest benefit for society. Expressed primarily in the form of legislation, society is very clear in its insistence on social responsibility and accountability in the management of our natural resources. In a concerted effort to protect and, if necessary, restore our natural resource base, historic practices must be reconsidered and management principles must be reassessed. Whether the prompting has its origin in the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, or Governor Locke's Salmon Recovery Plan, the role of the Moses Lake Sand Dunes as a contributing component of regional or national strategies in achieving the intent of these laws or directives must be recognized and appreciated.

33A

While off-road enthusiasts may contemplate the loss of recreational areas, has any consideration been given to the degradative impact of their activities on the biota of the Sand Dunes area? Has consideration been duly given to the Sand Dunes area regarding its potential role in realizing proposed or established water or air quality criteria? Has the deleterious activities of off-road vehicles on habitat been assessed relative to the presence of endangered, threatened, or sensitive species? In the management of public lands, it is prudent that consideration be given primarily to practices that protect our surface water and groundwater supplies while insuring our natural resource heritage.

33B

As a Grant County resident living within a few miles of the Sand Dunes, I can personally attest to the negative impact of off-road vehicle activity and to the disregard of vehicle operators to the personal well-being of people living in the area. A vivid example was Memorial Day weekend last year. Windy conditions in conjunction with off-road activity resulted in significant wind blown sand from the Sand Dunes. From my residence (in the Pelican Meadows subdivision), air-borne particulate matter resembled a sandstorm. Was any consideration given to public health or safety concerns resulting from such activities or of the resulting air pollution? Furthermore, the operation of off-road vehicles throughout the night was in direct violation and in total disregard of

33C [the county noise ordinance, a fact that can be substantiated with the number of complaints received by the sheriff's office. Their apparent absolution from rules relating to public safety was also demonstrated by excessive vehicular speed on Potato Hill Road.

While off-road enthusiasts cite tourism dollars as justification for their activities, I know of no study, specific to off-road vehicles, that quantifies their claim. In fact, the net economic impact, due to the expenditure of extensive county resources to monitor and to restrain their activities and to remedy the aftermath of their invasive presence, is undoubtedly less than their unsubstantiated claim. Conversely, one must wonder about the potential tourism industry foregone due to their activities. Another consideration is the tourism based that could be realized should the Sand Dunes be promoted as a wildlife conservancy area or as a low-impact recreational area. To assert that the area is suited only for off-road vehicle use is self-serving, and is unjustified. In contrast, if the events of last year are repeated, family friends and I will spend our holidays away from Moses Lake and out of Grant County.

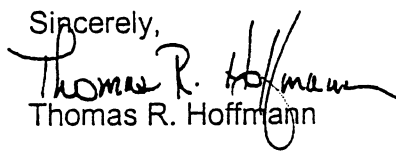
As a county resident, as a homeowner, and as a taxpayer, I contribute to the local infrastructure and to the gross domestic product of this area throughout the year. I choose to spend my disposal income locally. To counter the baseless, bolstering claims of off-road enthusiasts, I could choose to purchase my capital goods and domestic items outside of the Moses Lake or Grant County area. I can also choose not to support local groups, civic affairs, and community events. In addition, as publicly claimed in a *Columbia Basin Herald* article, the statement that agriculture currently contributes little to the local economy and then infer that off-road enthusiasts would compensate for the current downtrend in the agricultural sector is an outrageous claim. Apparently, Grant County is no longer agriculturally based, an assertion that few agricultural-dependant communities within the county would probably endorse.

33D [It is my hope, concerning the Moses Lake Sand Dunes, that the Bureau of Reclamation will consider the needs of society at-large. In determining the best use of the Sand Dunes, the desires of Grant County residents cannot be simply discounted to quell the intimidating antics (as noted in the *Columbia Basin Herald*) of a special interest group.

With environmental awareness comes societal responsibility; we must be accountable to one another concerning the use of our public resources. In effect, broader interests and needs must mold the allocation of our natural resources as well as the criteria employed in determining their best possible use, particularly with resources held in a public trust.

To that end, I support the Bureau of Reclamation's proposal to restrict off-road vehicle access from the designed area in the Moses Lake Sand Dunes. I appreciate the opportunity to offer my written testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,


Thomas R. Hoffmann

Copy to: The Honorable Harold Hochstatter, The State Senate
The Honorable Joyce Mulliken, House of Representatives
The Honorable Gary Chandler, House of Representatives
The Honorable LeRoy Allison, Grant County Board of Commissioners

Letter 34

Moses Lake, WA

March 25, 2001

To: Jim Blanchard, Bureau of Reclamation
From: James and Harriett Clark
Subject: Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan DEIS

Jim,

Here are a few comments expressing our thoughts about the above DEIS.

Thanks for giving wildlife management and watchable wildlife high priorities in your Alternatives B and C. Future generations will benefit from your concern for protecting our wild things. Without good habitat protection and enhancement these wild creatures will disappear and we will be the real losers.

As our population ages, more and more people will turn to less strenuous recreational activities such as viewing wildlife. The Potholes provides a wonderful place for this non-destructive pastime. We urge you to provide adequate opportunities for us to continue this hobby.

The economic benefits from watchable wildlife recreation are well documented. Please refer to the attached information sheet.

34A

We urge you to establish the four habitat management areas as proposed in Alternative C and to provide proper funding that will be necessary. We are particularly concerned about the Dunes/Sand Islands area. We urge you to take strong measures to protect the wildlife and its habitat in this area by limiting camping and by controlling no-take zones. Nesting sites need protection and personal watercraft are very damaging. Keep them out of this area during nesting season.

34B

In addition, we think that cattle grazing should be stopped. The benefits, in our opinion, are very limited and the damage it causes far outweigh these benefits. Bringing in non-native plants and damage to the cryptogamic layer are two examples.

34C

We now will comment on the sand dunes area at the south end of Moses Lake. We strongly support closing the "yellow zone" to ORV use. This beautiful and unique land needs the fullest protection. This area is a very important wildlife place, as well. We are very disturbed by the highly organized and vocal ORVers who are using pressure tactics to promote their very limited goal of grabbing as much land as they can for their very destructive activities. We believe that the majority of people are tired of hearing their weak arguments to expand the ORV area. They (ORVers) expound upon the economic benefits derived from ORV visitors, but we have seen no scientific evidence to support this claim. This area is not "their" exclusive domain.

34D

We would also like to see the Powerline Road closed to the public because of the potential for land abuse by the ORVs. Control will be very difficult, if ORVs are allowed in this area.

We also support only daytime use along the shores of Moses Lake between the Powerline Road and the first spillway. Fencing this area is a good idea.

Thank you for allowing us to express our thoughts concerning this important wildlife area.

Sincerely,

James & Harriett Clark
James and Harriett Clark

**James & Harriett Clark
8294 Kestrel Drive NE
Moses Lake, WA 98837**

W. T. Lowe
135 H st. N.E.
Ephrata, WA
98823

Jim Blanchard
c/o U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
32 C Street Bpx 815
Ephrata, WA
98823

Fundamentally I have trouble with giving some of the basic control to two state agencies. The reason is these two agencies do not have the money to do a good job. Just a few years ago newspapers carried headlines the Fish and Game Dep't was broke. Staff members were laid off; programs were slashed. In early February 2001 I read the Parks is short of money; they were planning to charge for day use in some parks. I believe local staff is competent and dedicated.

The problem is Wash. State is divided by the Cascades. Most of the people live on the west side of the state. They have serious problems over there such as congestion, salmon, timber harvest etc. Most of the state monies are being spent over on the westside. I concede we easterners do OK on highway money so crops (ie food) can get to westside. But we are not the tail that wags the dog.

35A

You write in the EIS of controlling erosion. I submit neither agency is set up to do that. You note in the EIS fish lack cover during low water. Same applies to Banks Lake. After almost 50 years of control by the state agencies, look who is planting riparian habitat to control erosion; look who is planting deep cover. It is groups of sports clubs and individuals using volunteer labor. They can do less than 100% say to 25%. Look at the record!!! The state agencies will do little on Potholes.

2.

I have trouble visualizing carp free ponds. I assume you are talking about the area north of the Job Corps Dikes. I have seen carp in these areas when bass fishing during the low water period (below the willow line), I walk in from the north. I am not 100% familiar with the total area, but close.

35B

If the bottom is sand, and it is, water will drain out and pass underground to the potholes. If the water is 5 feet higher in the north end than the main lake (your number), you will need a dike 20 feet higher (5' free board) than the low water level you hope to maintain in the carp free pond.

In the 1980s the Bureau of Reclamation constructed 3 dikes (by contract). Rumor has it the area behind the dikes dried up during low water. One of the state constructed dikes was breached because it dried up behind the dike. I have taken my boat through the breach during high-water on my way to the "honey hole" (hard to find).

35C

Some birds can hold several fry in their bill and carry the fry back to the nest. You need only a few dropped carp fry to plant the carp free ponds. To verify this you may check with the state biologists who create the ponds along Dodson road. These ponds were for ducks.

35D

You mention several natural ponds. I see no plan to provide access for the fishing public for these ponds or new ones. Why create new ponds?? Be sure to check water quality in the ponds, I suspect the Dissolved Oxygen percent will not support game fish.

In the late 1970s I was very familiar with the ground water gradient feeding the Potholes. I suspect there have been changes due to irrigation of the black sands area.

3.

On Page 1-4 you have Management Actions "Conduct an integrated erosion control program, implement shoreline erosion control measures," which is impossible. Your statement continues "limit activities on unsuitable soil" which is doable.

When the Potholes Reservoir was created it inundated thousands of sand dunes. Hundreds have disappeared from the natural action of the wind. Those dunes that still exist will continue to be degraded (blown sand drops into deep water). Currently there is a major island (dune) at the mouth of Crab Creek that appears when water is low. Wind blows in the fall (not as often as in the spring) but it does; and over 15 years of fishing I have seen this dune reduced in height.

During design of the Project it was well known that a "stable" channel through the sand dunes west of the Potholes Reservoir was as feasible and so the Frenchmen Hills Wasteway and Winchester Wasteway exist as they do today. These wasteways are currently eroding their banks; look at the erosion in the left bank of the Frenchmen above the "Y", look at progression of the Winchester Falls. These wasteways carry large amounts of soil, look at the delta of the Frenchman during low water, try to reach the "Big Dune" at low water traveling up the Winchester. You could 15 years ago. Snow melt floods (½" warm rain on less than 8" snow) carry enormous silt loads down the Lind Coulee, look at the mud flats above the county road bridge to varying degrees it extends down to the island. The "mud flats" will continue to expand, you can't stop it.

35E

I have to agree that the Potholes is an extraordinary place during high water phase. You need a strong statement that natural process will degrade the Potholes Reservoir and there is little you can do about it. Where economically feasible the U.S.B.R. should provide moneys to control erosion. Over all the reports hints at broad erosion control, yet I believe you are thinking of only small areas.

4.

When writing about fishing I'm biased. Following I will put some of your statements from your chapter 3.6.4 in quote marks and follow with my comments. The warm water fisheries of Potholes has not declined but crashed

"The Volunteer Angler Diary Data Report in 1992, angler caught---747 bass (≥ 12 " in length in 985 hours." The 2000 Potholes Open results were ± 300 bass in 500 mandays of fishing. I concede some anglers were kids, first timers and ladies out for a ride. But say 300 mandays by very good fishermen for 300 fish. That's a crash. Results of tournaments are submitted to the state. If the state is not hiding the data you could quote the results for 10 years in a little table and let people draw their own conclusions.

35F

"Some experienced Potholes anglers claim ---- smallmouth and walleye populations appear to be on the rise this decade" The year 2000 walleye tournament showed the reverse; 100 anglers caught 9 legal fish in two days. I think netting studies showed the fish were there; may have been a bad bite time, or fish were stressed by intensive netting and moved out and shut down.

In the 1980s there was a fleet of boats every nice weekend fishing perch. Not so for the last seven or eight years.

"The number of cormorant nests surveyed increased from 30 nests in 1983 to 652 nests in 1997 --- other fish eating birds found in large breeding colonies include grebes, gulls, terns and herons. ---- Large flocks of white pelicans can sometimes be found foraging in the reservoir or wasteways in late summer . --- Overall, these breeding and migrating birds consume large numbers of juvenile and small adult fish" Assume from 1983 grebes, gulls, terns and herons numbers increased in proportions to the cormorants, you are looking at one of the major factors of the fisheries collapse. In a multiple linear regression analysis it would exceed 0.9. In the Great Lake when the cormorants threatened the

35G

smallmouth bass fisheries the U.S. Fish and Wildlife killed about 1/3 of the adults and destroyed many nests. Your plan is to create large zones to protect nesting at the expense of the fish. Who is to say when the birds have reduced fish to unacceptable levels your EIS doesn't say?

5.

35H

In a desperate effort to create some fisheries in the Potholes, trout holding nets were installed. "Although rainbow trout stocking is currently a major component of fisheries management," Other than studies, what other component exists? "Intensive fisheries management activities have not been required in the past because of the good and steady success" That is old thinking I'm afraid.

35I

Years ago Grant County had an equine encephalitis (sleeping sickness) scare. One of the causes of the disease is the Culex Tarsalis mosquito. State senator Tub Hansen (deceased) was instrumental in forming a mosquito control district. In my opinion the spray kills invertebrates, which is the feed for small fry. I believe there is a lack of feed in the winter to sustain small fish. I firmly believe this because the adjacent Moses Lake (a semi-natural lake) warm water fisheries collapsed before it spread to the Potholes. In Moses Lake recent studies by Wash. Fish and Game Dep't show 0.37 pounds of feed available per pound of predator. Three plus pounds of prey fish per pound of predator is the preferred range. If spray to control disease is required just tell the fishermen that's the way it is. So be it. Incidentally birds are another vector of the disease and your preferred alternate wants to increase the birds. Also consider West Nile Virus. It's now in the U.S.A.

35J

"Lower water levels from August through October reduce available fish Habitat ---- With limited cover, fish may be forced into more open habitats making them vulnerable to predation." A funny thing on the BOR Salt River Project, the bureau, state game, and volunteers planted thousands of plastic (non degradable) fish escape covers. Why that Project and not this one?

6.

35K

From time to time the birds seem to disappear from the main body of water. If you poke around you can often find them back in some huge pothole (160 acre) that is drying up. They are there by the thousands feeding on fry. With or without the birds these fry are lost. But for a very few dollars a shallow channel could be cut back to the main lake -- not always, but some major spawning bays could be saved. Theory is one lump of coal will not burn but a major pile will. How about a major infusion of fry into the main lake? Some may survive.

Following the above coal theory, how about closing the bay in the Osullivan Site North to fishing during the smallmouth spawn, say May 30? This area could use ditching as above. In some bass tournaments this area is our of bounds.

35L

I did not see much about beavers. But we have a new law in this state regarding leg hold traps; this may not apply to beavers, but if it does we can expect to see beavers increase. Some place you talk about planting trees. If it's in Lind Coulee the beavers will get the trees. Some, non-willow, big trees back in the dunes have wire protectors around them.

35M

Why control the spread of Russian Olive? The tree feeds many upland birds during the winter.

Sincerely,





3-14-2001

POTHOLES MANAGEMENT PLAN

I SUPPORT THE PREFERRED PLAN THAT YOU PUT FORWARD. THERE ARE THREE CONCERNS THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ABOUT.

36A [1) MOSQUITO SPRAYING
I AM PLEASED THAT YOU ARE ADDRESSING THE UNCHECKED MOSQUITO CONTROL EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MORE REMOTE AREAS OF THE RESERVOIR AND THE DESERT LAKES AREA. THIS HAS BEEN DEVASTATING TO BOTH FISH AND BIRDS IN THE PAST. I CAN OFTEN TELL BY THE ABSENCE OF WATERFOWL WHICH DAYS THE DISTRICT IS SPRAYING IN THE WINCHESTER AREA. I WOULD ASK THAT THE AREA OF BIRDERS' CORNER AT DODSON & FRENCHMAN HILLS ROAD BE EXEMPT FROM SPRAYING.

36B [2) PERSONAL WATER CRAFT
THEY HAVE AN EXTREMELY HIGH IMPACT ON THE SHALLOW PARTS OF BOTH THE WINCHESTER AND CRAB CREEK AREA OF THE DUNES AND LIND COULEE, I FEEL THEY NEED TO BE RESTRICTED TO THE MAIN PARTS OF THE LAKE

36C [3) YELLOW ZONE
I SUPPORT THE CLOSING OF THE YELLOW ZONE IN THE DUNES AREA. IF SOME CONTROL IS NOT ENACTED THIS TIME, THE DUNES WILL SOON BE KNOWN AS THE FLATS. COMPETITION HILL AT THE SOUTH END OF MOSES LAKE WAS A MAGNIFICENT DUNE IN THE LATE 1960'S. AT 200 FEET HIGH IT TOOK NATURE 10,000 YEARS TO BUILD IT, HOWEVER THE FOUR WHEEL DRIVING HAS REDUCED IT TO A SORRY LITTLE DUNE IN JUST 25 YEARS. IN STEAD OF MORE AREA FOR 4-WHEEL DRIVING, I THINK SOME CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ARTIFICIAL ENHANCEMENT OF THE PRESENT GREEN AREA. PERHAPS USING HEAVY EQUIPMENT TO RECONFIGURE SOME OF THE DUNES INTO MORE CHALLENGING RUNS WOULD GIVE BOTH THE 4-WHEEL DRIVE ENTHUSIASTS AND THE CONSERVATIONISTS SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT.

Signed,

Lottie Hemore

4005

6142-0100

37C

guesses. The same scenario occurred on Lake Havasu, Arizona. Lake Havasu is a reservoir also. Under the leadership of the Bureau of Land Management along with the Bureau of Reclamation, Anglers United, Arizona Game and Fish, California Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a co-operative project was launched in 1992. The project is called the Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Program. Once a great fishing lake, time had taken it's toll. Natural cover had almost disappeared and the lake provided few places for fish to hide and grow. Sport fish populations declined just like on Potholes Reservoir. Artificial habitat was introduced into coves around the lake to provide sites for fish to spawn, rest and hide. Today fish populations are repairing due to this habitat enhancement. To insure a positive fishery on Potholes Reservoir this type of project must be started. The bottom of this man-made reservoir was once fertile with aquatic life due to the flooded vegetation. After nearly fifty years this vegetation has rotted and turned to silt and muck. Add to this 6" of volcanic ash from Mt. St. Helens and today the bottom of Potholes Reservoir looks like a "moonscape".

Your report states on page 2-30, paragraph one, seek funding for fishery studies.....and what regulatory and/or habitat improvement measures could be taken to reverse the present decline.....

In closing I would leave you with one paramount issue, habitat enhancement on Potholes Reservoir. If we can find a way to study the lake and determine how habitat enhancement would best help Potholes Reservoir, I would volunteer in any way needed to facilitate an environmentally acceptable habitat project.

Looking forward to hearing from you on these specific issues.

Best regards,



Mike Meseberg

Received: from borworld.usbr.gov
by ibr1pnr5.pn.usbr.gov; Wed, 25 Apr 2001 10:03:22 -0600
Received: (from httpd@localhost)
by borworld.usbr.gov (8.9.3+Sun/8.9.3) id KAA24837;
Wed, 25 Apr 2001 10:03:22 -0600 (MDT)
Date: Wed, 25 Apr 2001 10:03:22 -0600 (MDT)
Message-Id: <200104251603.KAA24837@borworld.usbr.gov>
To: jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov
From: (liz tanke)
Subject: potholes comment

From liz tanke () on Wednesday, April 25, 2001 at 10:03:22

address: 1495 first ck. rd., chelan, WA 98816

message: i hike, hunt, canoe and fish in the potholes area. i appreciate the natural values there, the plants and wildlife. Please protect some areas from camping disturbance and pollution, motorboats, jetskis, so that waterfowl and other wildlife have places they can rear young and otherwise function without much disturbance. encourage a shift from motorized recreation to low impact forms like canoeing, hiking, birdwatching. consider using interpretative info to educate visitors. Specifically, the powerline rd. east of crab ck. should be closed to reduce disturbance. the Upper west Arm, Upper Crab Ck, Peninsula South and East Lind Coulee Arm should be included as Habitat Management Areas. Speed restrictions for boats should be enacted in important nesting/habitat areas to protect wildlife. This place is important for people and wildlife, and important for people in central washington to have a place to experience wide open natural spaces. Thank you for taking good care of the Potholes, and considering these comments.

Submit: Submit

Received: from borworld.usbr.gov
by ibr1pnr5.pn.usbr.gov; Wed, 25 Apr 2001 21:13:12 -0600
Received: (from httpd@localhost)
by borworld.usbr.gov (8.9.3+Sun/8.9.3) id VAA26222;
Wed, 25 Apr 2001 21:13:08 -0600 (MDT)
Date: Wed, 25 Apr 2001 21:13:08 -0600 (MDT)
Message-Id: <200104260313.VAA26222@borworld.usbr.gov>
To: jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov
From: (Mark Peter)
Subject: potholes comment

From Mark Peter () on Wednesday, April 25, 2001 at 21:13:08

address: POB 1704
Chelan, WA 98816

message: Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the plan.

I don't like to get involved in these things, but I've been using the potholes area for almost 18 years, and would like to keep going there for a long time yet.

The use of personal water craft (Jet skis) has really degraded the area. They despoil the fishing, the birds nesting and the solitude/feeling of Wilderness. They must be banned from the area. The speeds that they travel and the noise and wakes they create are hazards to both fowl, mammals and people on the water.

I feel the same way about ORV use. If folks want to go out and enjoy the area they can walk. There is no NEED to use motorized vehicles to explore, or to get to any of the (outback) areas. I hate the feeling of hiking into a place to fish or hunt and seeing fresh 4-wheeler tracks, or even old ones. They destroy nests, reduce native habitat, open corridors for coyotes to prey on nesting birds, and spread weeds. They must be stopped and policed. Those machines can go anywhere, and they do. Please do not extend any further official openings for them, and curtail their use on all state land, and Bureau of Rec. Lands. There is no benefit from them being there, and there is no benefit to the native wildlife. In fact they are a detriment. They are also a known source for spreading noxious weeds. So, stop their use!

I do a lot of hiking, fishing and hunting in these areas, and love the wild feel of it. Please help encourage the non-motorized use of our public lands, and educate the folks about noxious weeds, non-motorized sources of pleasure/gratitude so they don't become more of a problem.

Sincerely,
Mark Peter

To Bureau of Reclamation

April 24 2001

We have lived here in Eastern W.Va. since 1995 and we are ex-off road vehicle enthusiasts. Old age set in some years ago so we now watch these activities on television.

We enjoyed off road motorcycle riding with our son on trail in the woods on west side of state.

I think reducing area for the people to off road is not the way to go. It seems to be the common thread in these disputes that agencies most always feel its in the "best interest" to close and or reduce available area to the off road vehicle folks. All the usual reasons against the

40A ORV's come up and we usually lose. No matter how much volunteer clean ups or maintenance by the ORV groups or taxes we may pay for fuel seem to satisfy the "antis" and reducing area only fuels the argument against ORV's. The next step after reducing area is the one about excessive damage due to more ORV's on a smaller area. Let's close it.

If that argument about ruining habitat for whatever is carried to its conclusion we would have the whole basin shut down to human activity. No farms, no industry - nothing! And I'm sure there are those out there that would be pleased with that kind of scenario.

H.

40B

It does seem to me that there are too many things going on here in the basin that are having a negative effect on the farmers and a lot of the population that needs jobs and businesses that need customers. I'm not sure what the answer to all these problems is but this proposed restriction on ORV areas is going to add to the problems of lots of people around Moses Lake. I'm sure you've already heard that from long time Moses Lk. residents.

I don't go to the dunes but I'm sure the birds + plants have lots of access to populate with the set up that is in place now. And I can see the shops etc, here in town that will lose if your plan is put in place.

Sincerely

H. F. Adler

4468 Cindi Ln. N. E.

Moses Lk. Wa. 98837

Letter 41

April 25, 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

My family and I engage in OHV riding in the Moses Lake Sand Dunes area at every opportunity. Please consider my following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan.

There are very few sand dunes available that provide a unique riding experience such as the Moses Lake Sand Dunes. This very special riding experience should be supported, not further restricted.

The Yellow Zone contains 44% of the OHV area. The DEIS' preferred alternative will close the Yellow Zone. Which is already restricted on a seasonal basis. The DEIS also expands the boundaries of the Yellow Zone to include portions of the eastern dunes. I oppose this closure.

41A

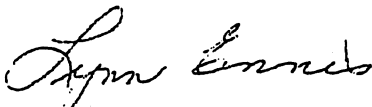
The DEIS has not presented sufficient reasons why this area should be closed. It has not sufficiently examined the impact of this proposed closure on OHV recreation, which will concentrate an increasing number of recreationalists in a smaller area. This will result in a diminished experience due to crowding, less variety, and increased safety problems. It has failed to consider the uniqueness of the dune riding experience.

The DEIS has not considered the environmental effects of the closure on the open sand portions of the Yellow Zone. For example, OHVs help maintain open sand and prevent the encroachment of vegetation. An increase in vegetation can encourage increased predation on shore dwelling species. The DEIS should consider how OHVs help maintain the open sand ecosystem of the dunes.

I support a modified Alternative D, which emphasizes recreation development. I support the part of D that opens part of the Red Zone, now closed. Alternative D limits travel to designated roads and trails in the Yellow Zone. This should be modified to allow open travel in open sand areas.

Thank you for your serious consideration of my comments. Please keep me informed.

Sincerely,



Lynn Ennis
P. O. Box 181
Keyport, WA 98345

Letter 42

April 25, 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

My family and I engage in OHV riding in the Moses Lake Sand Dunes area at every opportunity. Please consider my following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan.

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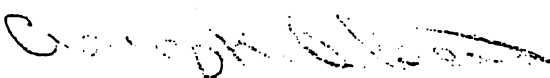
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I support a modified Alternative D, which emphasizes recreation development. I support the part of D that opens part of the Red Zone, now closed. Alternative D limits travel to designated roads and trails in the Yellow Zone. This should be modified to allow open travel in open sand areas.

Thank you for your serious consideration of my comments. Please keep me informed.

Sincerely,



Craig Olsen
P. O. Box 2892
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Letter 43

03-30-01

Mr. Bill McDonald
Acting Commissioner
Bureau of reclamation

By now I am sure your have heard about the possible land closure at the ORV area near Moses Lake. The land lease between the Bureau of Reclamation and the State of Washington was signed on July 10, 1952, it was for fifty years. On July 10th of 2002 it will be up for renewal.

My guess is the Bureau is trying to position itself for the next twenty years. The Bureau of Reclamation has completed a study over a 5-6 year period. Referred to As: Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan-Draft Environment Impact Statement. In this study they came up with four options for the ORV area. Alternative A, B, C & D.

Alternative A, leaves it pretty much the same way it is now with no action. This is the way the Grant County Sheriff's office said they were leaning. Acres of ORV travel would be 3, 354.

Alternative B, is the Bureau of Reclamation's Preferred Alternative which would permanently close the yellow zone, 1,459 acres. The red zone, 433 acres, is already closed. Leaving only the green zone, 1895 acres, for year around use.

Alternative C, referred to as the Preservation Enhancement, would stop all ORV riding on Reclamation lands within the study area. This will shrink the Green zone land area to about 1227 acres.

Alternative D, called the Recreation Development Alternative, would allow four access routes between Sand Dunes Road and Moses Lake. It would be open to motor vehicle travel and ORV's. Acres of ORV riding under "D" would be 1932.

We are presently having trouble with over crowding on busy three-day holiday weekends. I feel if there is more land developed in the red zone for camping and parking it would alleviate some of the problems. The City of Moses Lake has spent millions on parks, ball fields, water parks and the amphitheater trying to bring people to this area and take care of the local people. And yet we are about to see this ORV area that brings in more "out of the area" people than any other facility, other than the Gorge, cut in half.

I attended two public hearings a couple of weeks ago. The afternoon session had about fifty people in attendance. Five were in favor of making the area smaller. The evening session had about 100 people in attendance and not one person held up their hand in favor of making it smaller.

Below is a list of wildlife areas printed by the Wa. Dept of Fish and Wildlife between Moses Lake and the Columbia River from Quincy to the Wahluke Slope.

OFFICIAL FILE WASHINGTON		
DATE DUE 5/4/01		
Date	Initial	Code
4/16	LAS	2633
	FILES	W-1125
CLASS LND-600		
PRJ	GF	FN 105-10
CONTROL# 1000566		
DASH		

cc: W100
W1100
W1125

Desert Wildlife area 35,100 acres
Goose Lake Wildlife Area 3,626 acres
Potholes Wildlife area 32,500 acres
Seep Lake Wildlife area 4,537 acres
Winchester Lake Wildlife area 1,950 acres
Lower Crab Creek Wildlife area 17,000 acres
Wahluke Slope and WB-10 Wildlife area 55,000 acres
Gloyd Seeps Wildlife area 8,000 acres
Quincy Wildlife Area 15,266 acres
TOTAL WILDLIFE ACRES 172,979

If we are able to keep the 3,354 acres we now have that would be 1.9% of the total wildlife area.

If changed to Alternate "B" acreage, 1895 acres, that would be 1.1%.

The opening statement in the Potholes Draft Environmental Impact statement reads:

"The purpose of developing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Potholes Reservoir is to balance resource protection and conservation objectives with the rising demand for increased recreation opportunities, visitor facilities, and support services".

The RMP study acres are 36,200 acres, included in the above figures. It's obvious there is very little balance. Part of this ORV area was condemned directly from my grandfather (section 5) and is an area I used to horseback ride as a kid. I am hoping my grand kids will be able to ride there also.

Enclosed you will find a paper labeled Enhanced Alternative "D". It is a list of the items put together by the ORV'ers and business people of Moses Lake. Ideas they would like to see implemented. A map is also attached. I have offered to donate my equipment, time and fuel to help make this happen.

Anything you can do, a letter, phone call or personal contact would be appreciated. Find enclosed a copy of the article from Doc in our Col. Basin Herald.

Sincerely,



Mick Hansen

1828 Fairway Dr. N.E.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
1-509-750-1800

P.S. The last word we have received from the Bureau is "The habitat would recover without impact to the ORV's" (By locking us out of the yellow zone as in Alt. B) To quote the RMP: "It is estimated that there are 15 miles of ORV trails within the yellow zone. The represents 3% of the total yellow zone habitat lost because of ORV use over the years".

End 3 pages

Dear Mr. Blanchard,

Recently on a trip to the Moses Lake Sand Dunes, I learned of a proposal to close 44% of the land available to OHV's. I would like to voice my opinion to support proposal "D" which would emphasize recreation development. I would personally like to see the portion of the current red zone opened for camping with designated trails or roads leading to the current OHV area.

Mr. Blanchard, I have never written a letter to an official ever, so please understand how important this issue has become with me and thousand of other OHV enthusiasts. I speak for myself and many others who are tired of fighting to keep precious OHV areas open. OHV's are growing in huge numbers and we are overcrowded in the few areas we have. As a group we are not drunken thrill seekers who tear up the environment. ~~But~~ We are people who grew up with families who camp and ride, or people who discovered motorized recreation as a different way to enjoy our land in different and various ways, whether for trailriding, backcountry camping, challenging dunes, or organized competition. We spend millions of Dollars in communities near OHV parks and rec areas. We buy tabs for our Motorcycles and ATV's to support our lands, we pay camping fees at areas with facilities,

1000605
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2003

LND-8100

and we deserve better. At the Moses Lake area we have two porta-toilets that are run down and never maintained. There is nowhere to park unless you have four wheel drive. We deserve way better.

Mose Lake is the only sand dune riding area in our state. People travel great distances to enjoy the uniqueness of the dunes and water there. I, The Blue Ribbon Coalition, the American Motorcyclist Association, and many thousands of OHVers will fight for our right to use the land we currently have and more. We are tired of being on the defensive. If I am willing to write, then I am going to convince many others.

Mr. Blanchard, thank you for your time.

John Anderson
6248 SE Alpine Rd
Olalla, WA 98359
(253) 858-6547

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in regards to your proposed plan of closing down another 44% of the sand dunes. I was introduced to the sand dunes five years ago and have since then spent most of my free time in the summer and fall there.

I cannot begin to tell you the amount of fun my family has enjoyed there, particularly in the yellow zone.

As it is right now, the dunes are a terrific place for a family to enjoy together. As a mother of three I can tell you that means a lot as it is not easy to find things to do that all of us can enjoy. My husband & I do not take the children to the dunes on big crowded weekends because of safety factors. If you close an additional percentage of the sand dunes, they will be constantly overcrowded and we, like so many other parents, will no longer be able to spend quality family time there. In the long run, families like us - who help with clean up of the dunes, will no longer be there and it will become an area for immature delinquents who want nothing more than a place to party and there will be no respect left for the

sand dunes. The animals you are claiming to protect will have to survive in an area full of trash.

I urge you to consider all future aspects of this closure - the impact it will have on the local economy - the community - the families and yes - the future of "protected" animals of the dune area.

Rusan Peters

906 Ironwood

Moses Lake WA 98837

TO: Mr Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
PO Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

MAR 26 2001

Dear Jim,

I am writing you to try to open The Bureau's eyes to a viewpoint, concerning the usage of the Potholes Recreation area, that you obviously haven't seen the light of yet. Your RMP is so biased against ORV activities and so obvious in its conclusion from the start, that I wonder why you wasted the taxpayer's money on this absurd pretense of being fair to all concerned.

I grew up in adjacent Mae Valley. My uncle had his cattle on your 36,000 acres for many years. I was on horseback from the lake to Dodson road regularly. Since that time the Bureau has steadily been moving in easterly direction with its off limits signs. What we called the 2nd public hunting road (by the old county dump site) is now a game reserve full of purple loosestrife where you aren't even allowed to walk a dog. In the 80's you closed the current red zone even though high water eliminated ORV use 75% of the time and the habitat would grow back each year to the point you had to take pruning shears with you on the first ride each year. I opposed that closing, not only because I was a regular user of the area, but because I knew you wouldn't stop your crusade once you crossed the main reservoir waterway and until the public was locked out of every last acre you controlled.

46A

I didn't realize until I read the 2nd paragraph on page 4-40 what a waste of time this whole procedure has been. The last sentence in that paragraph states that 3% of the yellow zone habitat has been lost because of ORV use since the beginning of its use. 3% of the 1459 acres in that zone is under 44 acres. That is 44 acres of 36,200 acres that we use to be able to use. That is a little over 1/10th of 1% of the land you control. This ratio of comparison told me that the very first paragraph in the RMP, stating the purpose of developing a RMP is to BALANCE resource protection and conservation objectives with the rising demand for increased recreation opportunities, is a complete falsehood.

After reading that paragraph, I realized the only hope ORVers have, is to try to open the Bureau's eyes to the responsibility that goes along with it's power. In this case, you are the prosecuting attorney, judge and jury. You have to realize there are 280 million of us in this country and we all have different interests and methods of enjoying ourselves. But as long as we don't hurt other people or their property, all forms of recreation should be accepted by others. The one thing all Americans have in common is, we all pay taxes and therefore should have equal rights to utilize government property. This is the only area in Grant County for this type of ORVing and your going to cut it in half. Fishing, hunting, boating, camping, hiking, swimming and even bird watching have a multitude of localities available.

46B

Alternate D would be the best compromise. If this alternate was chosen, I would like to suggest an idea of a Citizens Advisory Team. Any and all regular users of the ORV area that are interested, and I guarantee there would be plenty, would be volunteer helpers to Grant County Sheriff Dept. to advise the people who are not in the proper riding areas and give them a prepared pamphlet, showing allowed riding areas and the ramifications for all of us if the rules are not followed. This method of policing ourselves would be a huge success because of the sense of responsibility it would instill with all involved, regulars and visitors alike. I would volunteer to find the funding for all costs involved with the program.

Since there was only 1 representative from the Bureau at the public meeting held in Moses Lake on 3/13/01, I feel it should be noted and considered by all at the Bureau, who are involved with making this decision, that a show of hands of all that attended indicated almost 100% were for Alt. A or D. Utilizing one of these two alternates, you would not have a negative impact on our suffering economy in Moses Lake. In fact, you would have a positive impact with Alt. D. The Bureau would be then helping us, not hindering us.

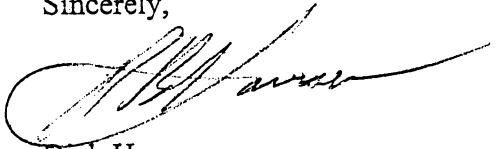
I have been told by the Bureau's office in Ephrata, that their recommendation on which alternate is best would be what the final decision would be based on. This puts a heavy weight on the shoulders of those that make that recommendation.

46C

They live amongst us and will be held accountable, for better or for worse. I would advise, after reading page 2-45 about avoiding or minimizing mosquito control in Alt. B, that you be very careful involving yourself with this truly important part of everybody that lives in Moses Lake's habitat. An increase in mosquitoes would not have the bite in Ephrata that it would in Moses Lake but you have to realize this could be fatal to a citizen in Moses Lake which in turn would be fatal to the Bureau's plan and reputation. This community has become accustomed to the superb efforts of the Grant County Mosquito Control District. Fatality or not, anything done by the Bureau restricting the districts ability to do their job will not go unnoticed or unaccounted for.

I appeal to your sense of fairness and better judgment to ask for an equal opportunity to utilize what we all own.

Sincerely,



Dick Hansen
952 Laguna Dr.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
509-765-8506

03-26-01

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mr. Jim Blanchard

Find enclosed a picture of my grandparents on my mothers side. The picture was taken on the west side of Moses Lake during the year of 1909. They were homesteading in the Mae Valley area.

My grandparents on my fathers side moved to the Moses Lake area in 1917. All of which enjoyed the freedom of being able to ride in the sand area on the west side of Moses Lake.

My father, mother, aunts, and Uncles all enjoyed the same freedom. I myself had the privilege of growing up and enjoying the sand dunes. Many memories of rounding up cattle, rounding up rodeo stock, horse back riding, driving an old army truck out there, farm tractors, jeeps and even a couple of dune buggies my cousin and I built back in 1958.

My wife enjoyed horse back riding in the sand until a few years ago when returning home she happened to cross a corner of the property on the State Park. Unmarked, still in native sage brush, she was arrested and had to appear in court.

My sons found it much more restricted than the rest of us (15 years ago) but still had a lot of fun.

Now my grand children are coming to the age when they want to ride horses and bikes in the sand dunes. I am hoping there will be an area where they can ride safely. If the O.R.V. park is shrunk to the size of the green zone I feel this will be unsafe because of the crowded conditions.

47A [My question to you is.... do white people have any cultural rights?
I see nothing in your Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan that would suggest that we do.

47B [The economical impact to the Moses Lake area is just another area in which I feel your R.M.P. is deficient.

I would hate to use the money that I plan on using for improvement to haul your ass to court.

Mick Hansen



3-25-01

To whom it May Concern - Bureau of Reclamation

You have managed to bring back the old saying - If you can't dazzle them with Brilliance - Baffle them with Bullshit

48A [Then you had 2 meetings, all on the same day for public appeal. That alone shows us that you could care less about what we have to say. This closure was a done deal four years ago. Why was so much money spent that could have gone to much better than ~~filling~~ James + Moores pockets.

There are a lot of people that use that area and Don't abuse it. No Matter Where you go, how big or small there will be the 10% that make things look bad. Our Bird Populations are Greater than they ever have been. There are already an abundance of acres set aside for Habitat Management, some within a very short distance.

48B [You will not only be removing CRV lands and trails, but will be taking away some of the best bird hunting areas in the County. Mostly what happens in these cases, is that you start jamming more people into smaller spaces. It will be ~~no~~ different than Cities and their problems

Road Rage - Shootings and all the Other
things that go along.

All the dollars spent and your Study
says Walleye and birds are the problem
with the fishing. Did someone forget that
there are Bass in that Pond and have been
since before we ever heard the name
Walleye. Not to mention every fish
is a Predator, Trout included.

Maybe a few ORVs from time to
time would keep the Cormorants from
Nesting. Those sure aren't native to
our area, and sure don't help the fish population.

These ramblings could probably go
on for the length of your half million
dollar study. But I want try to
Baffle you.

When you have us all at home
watching T.V. or Surfing the Internet
for some thing to do, you'll know your
study was a real Success.

Another Disgruntled Citizen

Don Justesen

875 Sundance Rd SE

Moses Lake, WA 98837

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of
Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
32 C Street
Ephrata, WA 98823

March 26, 2001

Dear Mr. Blanchard,

I am writing this letter of concern over the land closure of B.L.M Property located in the Ossulivan Reservoir, Particularly the area called the Yellow Zone and areas of the Green Zone which are proposed to be taken from public use. I am very much opposed to this decision, and feel that the public benefits greatly by having this area open as is.

The Yellow Zone area is a place where the public is allowed to use 90 days a year. This is NOT unreasonable, compared to proposed closure of the land for good, 90 days out of the year is VERY reasonable.

The O.R.V. lands are a strong tourism commodity for Grant County and Moses Lake area, and do bring in a lot of business in to the local economy.

I am a long time resident of Moses Lake and have been using the area for 25 years there is more vegetation and wildlife in this area now than there was 10,15, or even 25 years ago. So the propaganda talk of conserving wildlife and vegetation does not stand with me, this area was primarily an open sand area, and if anything, this area is threatened to be encroached by vegetation, not man.

My Grandfather took me out there when I was a toddler, and I now take my son to the area as well, Yellow Zone by name, We should keep this land open for his generation and his children as well.

I feel that either Alternative A or Alternative D or a combination of the two is the only reasonable action that should be implemented.

Thank you for your time,



Ross Lingenfelter
10587 Dougherty Rd Ne
Moses Lake WA 98837

Letter 50

From: James Blanchard
To: htpd@borworld.usbr.gov
Subject: Re: potholes comment

Mr. Michael Dolfay

The comment period for the draft EIS has been open for 60 days on March 27, 2001. We do not anticipate extending the comment period. You may find the DEIS on the internet at pn.usbr.gov/project/potholesindex.shtml.

>>> htpd@borworld.usbr.gov 03/22/01 09:01PM >>>

From Michael E. Dolfay () on Thursday, March 22, 2001 at 22:01:56

address: Canyon Crest Drive
Wenatchee, WA 98801

50A

[message: I would like to request a time extension as I have been unable to find a copy of the inviro document. I would hope that the users have had time to assist in the planning as it is effecting their use and any closue or restrictions of any additional land will not just impact the pothole area but many other areas in the State. I would ask where are those user going to go and recommended to go in the state of washington. What midigation measures do you have to deal with those users that can not visit the potholes. Where can I find the documention and information that supports your decision?

50B

Submit: Submit

David H. Barrett
6620 Old Naches Hwy.
Naches, WA 98937

February 16, 2001

To: Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Jim,

I am responding to an article in the February 13th, 2001 Columbia Basin Herald newspaper where the writer describes the Potholes Reservoir and the impending *Resource Management Plan* for the Potholes.


As a farmer and businessman I understand the primary purpose of the reservoir is for water storage and that irrigation takes precedent over recreational use. I used the Potholes as a child for recreational use beginning in the 1960's when the sand dunes were just that, sand ! I would like to restore some of that beautiful sand for recreational use.

I also know that resources to improve and maintain B of R holdings are limited. This must be especially true in light of B of R aggressive land acquisition policy where otherwise monies used to maintain and improve existing land holdings is being used to acquire more and more land. I don't support B of R's actions to acquire more land while existing holdings such as the Potholes are poorly managed.

With the conversion of farm ground from rill to some form of sprinkler irrigation, the amount of runoff, and therefore nitrates and other plant growth stimulants into the Potholes surely must be on the decline. Weather this is the case or not, I would recommend the B of R reclaim some of the waterways by removing the plant life that could be used by recreational users. The management of this plant life should over time be easier and less costly after the initial dredging and removal. The 1960's profile of the Potholes is and was, much more conducive to human habitat. The dredging would still leave more than enough habitat for the birds and wildlife in far reaches of the system.

I would like to know that what was once a beautiful place to spend a day or weekend could once again be a place to enjoy for my family.

Sincerely


David Barrett

1000342
1451
2-20-01

2003

LND-8100

April 11, 2001

P.O. Box 25
Ritzville, WA 99169

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 813
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:


I am writing this letter in regards to the use of the Moses Lake Sand Dunes by the 4 wheeler's and motor bikes. As a resident of Grant County, I would like to relay my feelings to you. I live in the Pelican Meadows area south of Moses Lake. I have a Ritzville address because I work in Ritzville across the street from the post office so it's just easier for me to get my mail there. I would like to see the sand dunes protected from the off-road enthusiasts.

The sand dunes area is being torn apart from the off-road enthusiasts. Plant and wild life are under great stress. Also, the noise these machines make is unbelievable. They run their bikes and dune buggies all hours of the night. I know they have kept me awake many nights during the summer months. On weekends I watch ambulances and police officers heading out to the sand dunes all of the time. People are injured and people have been killed. I can't tell you how many times I watched ambulances coming and going last year.

I would like to see this area turned into a hiking and wild life sight seeing area that people could enjoy in peace and quiet. Last Memorial Day it was quite dusty and noisy all three days. My plans are to leave the area rather than have my family come visit this year. I just couldn't handle the noise the off-road enthusiasts made last year. I was not aware this activity took place when I moved into my house. I moved here from out of the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings.

Sincerely,


Marilyn J. Sielaff

DATE: MARCH 13, 2001

TO: JIM BLANCHARD,
EPHRATA FIELD OFFICE
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
32 C STREET N.W.
EPHRATA, WA. 98823

FROM: KEN MUTCH
10387 RD 6 S.E.
MOSES LAKE, WA
98837

SUBJECT: POTHOLE DRAFT STATEMENT ON POTHOLE RESERVOIR

Due to fact I will be unable to attend the public hearings on the Impact Statement & Study, I would like to comment on the impacts on one small segment of these Bureau lands which encompass the Reservoir.

I live on and own F.U. 252 Block 42, which is adjacent to the Bureau lands at the end of Road 6 S.E.

I have already addressed some of my concerns with you in person in the past, and will again update you on the ongoing problems and the coming foreseen problems that are likely to occur as any one of the planned alternative course of actions is put into play on these Bureau Lands.

53A

The particular segment of property which I am concerned with is adjacent to our property and simply "more of the same" is going to significantly erode these lands in terms of vegetation and wildlife habitat, and build up of residues due to much human activity on to small of area.

I will list the current problems that we are dealing with at this time.

1. Past 2 years three fires have been started during 4th of July period due to unlawful setting off of fireworks and poor firepit management.

It is only a matter of time when these fires will not be controlled quickly enough and our plastic irrigation main line will be burned out, as well as any perishable crop such as wheat.

Most fires have started at or near midnight.

2. Garbage- the trash buildup left behind by campers seems to ebb and flow per each year, but it is certain that many do pickup their trash, bag it and then leave it to be picked up! They assume the garbage truck must make special runs around this area picking up trash! In time the bags break and the wind takes care of the rest.

3. Human waste is random and worst after Memorial and 4th of July weekends.

4. ATVs & Bikes- since part of this particular area was the old gravel pit for Dam construction, there now exist sloped sides and hills which are being used ever more frequently each year. This type of terrain, once degraded, has a very difficult time reseeding and coming back. Also, more and more camper, trailers, tents use this area each year. I have counted up to 30 plus trailers, camper units in this small area on Memorial or 4th of July weekends. Vegetation erosion is being significantly eroded over the past four years.

This will become a greater problem in 2001 season as it now appears the Sand Dunes ATV areas will be limited as to number of people that will be let in. We of course, will get much of the overflow and they do intend to 4 wheel!

This area has large signs posted which declare the rules for this area. As a matter of interest I have asked

10-11-3
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1451
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100-1

about a dozen people, who were misusing the area, if they had read the signs at the entrance, not ONE person answered that they had stopped and read the signs.

5. The back end of this area (South end) is and continues to be heavily used by the drinking parties, and multi-trailer/camper/tent groups who often stay many days at a time.

53B [6. Late winter migrating eagles have tried to use this area, due to fact there are considerable trees on this site, but the random traffic which comes into this area is simply too much for the comfort level of the birds. Same is true for spring nesting pheasant, and geese. They simply get run out.

7. Last--typical of the crowds of Memorial and 4th of July there are always some who party and use the small road into this Bureau land site at much too high rate of speed, does not do any good to holler at them, they ignore one and all.

The Fish and Game supplied me with heavy pipe and concrete two years ago, which I installed exactly on the property line, which runs next to this road, hoping the pipe would induce most to slow down as they used this entrance. They have now run over and bent over almost all these posts!. They simply resented having to slow down!-- which the posts did help effect.

Let me comment that the one saving grace in this is that the Grant County Sheriff department has been excellent in responding to our calls when things began to get out of hand or local usage rules are being broken. They have responded to each and every call and keep things down to a dull roar.

I do not know where the Fish and Game fits into the program of managing these lands, but it appears the Sheriff Dept. is the active manager to date.

Solutions for this Bureau tract or site.

1. I will contact Fish and Game to ask for supplies to again fix posts on the property line. I will do the labor and will put in rock jacks, and all can test their pickups on these.

2. Install a permanent fence -running from our private property down to the lake-E to W. and cut off the back half of the site to all camping, source of most of the problems. Install in such a way foot traffic who wish to fish and hunt will not be hindered.

3. Day camping only. NO overnight use.

4. Install a access gate (arm) at the road entrance and stop all vehicle traffic during 3 or 4 of the peak times of the year which produce most of the problems, i.e. Memorial day, 4th of July, and consideration of closure during hunting for 60 days. Hunters would actually benefit by walking in to this area instead of all driving in & running the birds out.

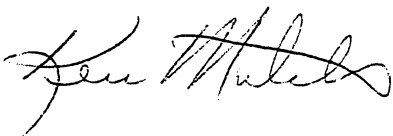
The ATV/ bike/ 4 wheelers/ are getting harder to control due to their desire to hill climb, look at what is happening to the hill at the Medicare beach site.

I simply do not want to see this area denuded due to a who cares attitude. Once the vegetation is gone, I and my neighbors get the benefit of the blowing sand and dust, and it is not our idea of a scenic site and lake. Nor do I think it is most campers idea of scenic. To many people in to small of delicate environmental area simply creates a desert for people and animals, not what folks expect to see of these areas.

We prefer not to see a mini-Dunes area here.

Thank you, should you have any questions please feel free to call- Ken Mutch- 765-8119

Ken Mutch



450 Statter Rd.
Ephrata, WA. 98823

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia Basin Project
Ephrata Field Office

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Regarding the Draft EIS for the Potholes Reservoir RMP, I urge the adoption of Alternative B, the preferred alternative described in your document of January, 2001. Having been involved in resource development and management for my 32-year career with the Federal government, I recognize Alternative B as a reasonable, balanced and fair approach to the management of this unique resource.

The preferred alternative assures the management of this key feature of the Columbia Basin Project in a manner consistent with Reclamation's contractual obligations to the Project waterusers, and within the framework of applicable State and Federal laws and regulations. By doing so, it appropriately recognizes the significance of the role played by the Project's irrigation districts and farmers in the creation and preservation of this reservoir.

Although I support Alternative B as a reasonable compromise, I do wish to express my concern about the long-term protection of this unique resource. An old proverb very applicable to this situation is "Treat the Earth well, it was not given to us by our parents, but lent to us by our children." The Columbia Basin Project represents an ecosystem dramatically altered by the human hand. While some will argue the value of the alteration, there is no argument that a new and distinctive ecosystem has been created. The Potholes Reservoir area exemplifies this unique ecosystem. It needs to be managed and protected so that it may be shared by future generations.

54A

My primary concern is that restrictions and limitations on camping and on the use of off road vehicles (ORVs) and personal watercrafts (PWCs) may not be sufficient to adequately protect the special environment that exists in the management area. Actions beyond those included in the preferred alternative may prove necessary.

54B

Closing the "Yellow Zone" to ORV use is certainly a step in the right direction, especially since, as shown by data collected for the Draft EIS, it will not impact many of the ORV users. It would, however, provide a valuable and significant buffer between the adjacent lands and the intense use of the "Green Zone." Furthermore, abuse of restrictions applicable to the "Yellow Zone" would be much easier to control by closing the area completely.

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1451

2-003

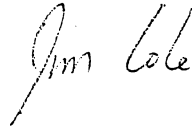
LND-8.00

I also believe additional restrictions will eventually be necessary on the use of PWCs in areas north of the main reservoir. In addition to the minority of PWC users who are "trouble causers," the mere presence of these vehicles is disruptive to wildlife and to the peaceful enjoyment of the waters by other users. My family has spent many enjoyable hours paddling our sea kayaks around the various waters in the Columbia Basin, but we have learned to avoid Potholes Reservoir once the PWC season hits. The noise, the frustration of watching birds and wildlife chased away (be it deliberate or unintentional), the fear for our safety – all things associated with PWCs that detract from a pleasant day on the water.

In spite of these concerns, I recognize Alternative B as a compromise and support it, particularly since it includes the annual monitoring of the impacts of dispersed camping and recreational use. To me, that commitment implies the intention to take appropriate action if negative impacts are worse than expected and the resource becomes endangered.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this draft EIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Cole".

March 13, 2001

March 19, 2001
Jim Blanchard
US Bureau of Reclamation
32 "C" Street NW
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard,

Considering the Draft EIS for the Potholes Reservoir RMP, I concur with your choice of alternative 'b' as the preferred choice. It seems to be a reasonable compromise in light of all concerned parties. However I would like to suggest a few modifications.

Seasonally restrict the watercraft to low speed minimum wake operation in the Dunes/Sand Islands management area from April 15 through June 30 in order to lessen disturbance for nesting birds. Other restrictions on motorized watercraft should be considered to increase the peaceful enjoyment of the waters by non-motorized watercraft users. It is a lovely area that could possibly be enjoyed by canoe and kayak users and others for watching wildlife, fishing or relaxing but the noise of the personal watercraft and other motorized craft creates an atmosphere that disturbs and scares the wildlife and causes individuals to sometimes fear for their safety.

55A

Also in the Dunes/Sand Islands area, select several appropriate islands for camping and post them as available for camping and enforce camping bans on the remainder of the islands. This will allow for human use and also for the possible bird nesting sites. On page 2-44, the DEIS says "Seek funding to analyze the level of disturbance and impacts to nesting birds and other wildlife caused by motorboats, personal watercraft, and dispersed camping activities. Based on these findings, develop or modify strategies to control the time and place of these activities to reduce human caused disturbances and protect sensitive habitat areas and vulnerable wildlife populations. These disturbance factors are particularly prevalent in the Dunes/Sand Islands management area." I urge you to seek the funding necessary for this study and follow up on its recommendations!

Designate the North Potholes Reserve as closed to dispersed camping. This area is a wonderful watchable wildlife area now but the presence of long-staying campers without the use of sanitary facilities can leave it less than desirable for visiting.

NOTICE

If you detach enclosures
please insert code number
and initial _____

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1451
3-21-01
ACTION TO
2003
LND-8-00

On page 2-9 one line says "seasonally prohibit public access of any type in the south/central portion of North Potholes Reserve from March 15 through May 30". May I suggest changing the word 'prohibit' to 'restrict'?

Assuming the Yellow zone will be permanently off limits to ORV's, I would suggest closing the Powerline Road east of Crab Creek.

Prohibit the discharge of firearms reservoir-wide except from September 1 to February 1. Continue year round prohibition on guns in North Potholes Reserve and Potholes State Park.

55A Designate East Lind Coulee and the Peninsula South areas as HMA's. Prohibit motorized watercraft in the Upper West Arm and East Lind Coulee Arm. Restrict watercraft to low speed/minimum wake operation in the Upper Crab Creek Arm year-round. Limit dispersed camping opportunities to specific sites designated and posted as open. Continue existing road/motor vehicle closures within the Upper West Arm and limit motor vehicle travel in the Upper Crab Creek Arm, Peninsula South, and East Lind Coulee Arm to existing graveled roads.

Permanently close and/or revegetate primitive roads not needed for public or agency access.

Work with the mosquito district to avoid or minimize mosquito spraying activities in the Upper West Arm, Upper Crab Creek Arm, Peninsula South, East Lind Coulee Arm, and North Potholes Reserve management areas.

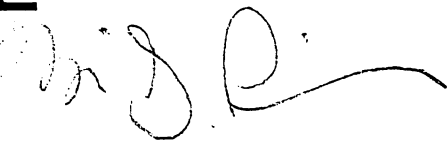
Designate Upper Crab Creek Arm, Peninsula South, West Lind Coulee Arm, Upper West Arm, Eastern Dunes, Eastern Bluffs, and East Lind Coulee Arm as "closed" to dispersed camping.

Unless otherwise posted, adopt and enforce a reservoir wide ten-day stay limit outside developed recreation areas.

55B

I attended the afternoon hearing on March 13, 2001 and many of the people who spoke concerning ORV restrictions brought up the economic impact to our area from ORV users, however none of them had any hard data or statistics on the subject. I have included with my comments a copy of a report titled "The Economic Value of Birds". Here is a quote from the report: "Residents of the state [Washington] who were wildlife watchers, that observed, photographed and fed wildlife numbered 1.62 million, and they spent \$960 million.....Of the \$960 million expenditures, \$508 million were for trip related expenses which included \$240 million for food, \$37 million for lodging, almost \$126 million for transportation and \$1.6 million for other expenses. Equipment and associated expenses totaled over \$451 million." And: "Birds are a very valuable resource not only economically but give us pleasure through sight and sound. Our national symbol, the Bald Eagle, is a bird. Birds figure prominently in art. Many homes have at least one picture of birds. They are found in figurines, china, gracing lawns as statuettes, etc. But why should we just be contented with artificial birds and not the living birds? It just does not make good sense to callously destroy them or their habitat and not take care of them." I believe you will find the report to be interesting reading.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Potholes DEIS



Teri J. Pieper
(509) 766 0101
tpieper@atnet.net
7896 Brunch Road NE
Moses Lake, WA 98837



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet
Bureau of Reclamation

Name: Thomas H. Dagnas

Address: 1809 Monroe St
Moses Lake, WA.

Comments: Gentlemen:

I'm writing you in support of keeping the
larger area of the ORV area at the
South end of Moses Lake open in its
entirety. I have a possible solution
to the enforcement problem encountered
by our deputy sheriffs. Build several
parking areas spread around the
South end for ORV users. If a person
spreads out the users by creating
these parking areas it reduces the
policing problems by having smaller groups
thus making enforcement more manageable.

Thank You
Thomas H. Dagnas Excavators
Tom D.

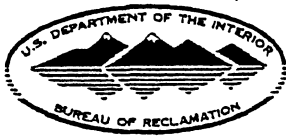
3, 6, '01

Letter 57

Dear Sir:

The Sand dunes has been the number-one place to ride bikes. People that live around here want the dunes to remain as it is. We pay many taxes and licence fees for the right to go there. Is this the way we the people get what they pay for? ... close down 44% of the dunes. I look at my property tax and in it is multi-County-taxes. I've even paid ORV tax For a vehicle. And by taking and not given your going to have many discontent people around here. So give us back the shoreline, like it was in the old days! x x o o o

Samuel Fay



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet
Bureau of Reclamation

Name: Amanda Smith

Address: 611 Sycamore
Moses Lake

Comments:

As a resident of Moses Lake
for 14 years I believe that one
of the funnest and most beautiful
places to be and hang out w/ friends
is at the dunes. I went there as
a child with my grand parents and even
with my friends' family. If you
take the dunes away then the
residents of Moses Lake and the
surrounding areas then what fun harmless
activities are you going to offer and
install and enforce for current and
future generations. The Dunes is
a nice (one of our best) place to relax
to have fun and enjoy life.

Letter 59



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet

Bureau of Reclamation

FAX# 509-754-0239

Name: Jim BlanchardAddress: Bureau of ReclamationComments: Dear Mr. Blanchard

We are writing concerning the proposal to close the yellow area of the sand dunes. We are strongly opposed to this action. The sand dunes at Moses Lake has been a gathering place for our family for years. It is a place where parents, grandparents, cousins, children and grandchildren have connected and shared many wonderful times. We wish to carry on that tradition for many years to come.

Considering that the sand dunes is ever shrinking due to residential development, we oppose the government taking away any more of our recreational area, an area that means a great deal to our family.

Sincerely,

Dirk & Rhonda Farrar
Olympia, WA

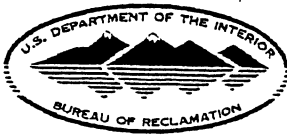
URS / DAMES & MOORE

Potholes Reservoir Draft EIS
Public Hearing, March 13

Jim Blanchard
Bureau Of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

I have lived in Moses Lake for the past 21 years and have been able to enjoy all that the Potholes Reservoir Moses Lake Sand Dunes has to offer. I was introduced to this area by my father, I have introduced my children to it and plan to also introduce my grandchildren to it. This area is totally unique and awesome it should be enjoyed by all for years to come. The Proposing new management Plan is going to take much of this away, and is BOGUS at best. Not only will this Plan Enhance wild life it will Enhance Buisness closures, Accidents, Deaths, and Possibly Disease. There are alternatives and we should open up more area rather than close it. This Area really is wonder full and Should be Promoted, with proper education and Management it would only get better.

Tina Moore
412 Reisner Rd
Moses Lake, WA 98837



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet Bureau of Reclamation

Name: Alvin Albco Itawg

Address: P.O. Box 171, 417 S. County Rd.
Warden Wa 99557

Comments: I was born in Larson Air Force Base Hospital
in 1964. My name is Alvin Albco Itawg. I am born and
raised from Moses LK. Wa.

Not only is the Sandunes area a great ORV park,
and a large part of my heritage it is also a large source
of income for Moses LK. and the surrounding area.

One hears people talking about wild life and the
natural resource but does anybody say that mentioned
that the whole Moses LK. Dislawen^{Natural} Wild life refuge
was made by man and his dams.

I have personally gone out in my buggy and watched
deer, rabbits, coyote, birds and none are any more
bothered by me than somebody walking. The sand-
dunes used to run from Hwy 17 to the Columbia River
then irrigation hit and they started leveling ~~fields~~^{dunes}
for fields. the ORV area disturbs less than the plow,
count on it!! Buggys, Plows, or Houses what will do the
most damage to this area, its your choice.



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet Bureau of Reclamation

Name: Felicia Moore

Address: 412 West Reznor Rd

Moses Lake, WA 98837

Comments:

I am 15 years old and I've been going to the Dunes for as long as I can remember. It's been like a second home to me & my friends & family. We really enjoy ourselves and restrictions make it difficult for us to do that.

You may say we're just kids and we make a mess, but we are responsible and pick up after ourselves and are even involved in some of the organized cleanups. I want the Dunes to be restriction free for my generation and many more to come so they may enjoy all it has to offer.

Sincerely,

Felicia Moore

Jim Blanchard,

4-24-01

I support eliminating all ORV use in both Yellow & Red Zones as proposed in Alternative B in the Potholes Resource Management Plan D.C. I & D.

Good stewardship does not include destructive ORV use. This is my land too & I enjoy the natural beauty of this unique area.

Sincerely,
James Clark
14294 Neutral Dr
Mesa Lake, WY

April 23, 2001

Mr. Jim Blanchard
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

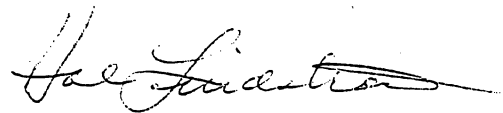
R.E. Potholes Reservoir RMP Draft EIS

There are a number of powerful state and federal agencies whose function is to attend the needs and wants of people. Recognizing that protecting our environment and the wildlife in it as another human need was relatively late in coming of age. There is such a long-standing and well developed head of steam in land development practices, that the more recent focus on environmental concerns including some very good legislation has barely slowed the rate of loss of some of the most critical wildlife habitat areas – such as wetlands. It is with this view that I ask that special emphasis be placed on managing the Potholes Reservoir for wildlife habitat. *The Reservoir should be managed so that where human recreational activities occur, they be of a kind and degree as to not detract from the Area's primary wildlife function.*

Of the Alternative listed, the Preferred is best. However it needs strengthening by:

1. In order to properly assess whatever management plan is finally adopted, there needs to be stable and adequately funded monitoring and scientifically based studies of the program's operations. This country spends billions on defense, roads, human health, etc, but a relative pittance on the non-human residents that share our space and are totally dependent on our doing the right (ecologically correct) things in order for them to survive. It is one thing to implement a plan of action, it is another to assess the effectiveness of the program.
- 64 2. Limit motorized boat access, and, where allowed, keep speeds at a rate supportive of the Reservoir's wildlife function. There should for example be no motorized boat traffic in places like Upper West Arm and East Lind Coulee Arm.
3. Places like upper Crab Creek are prime habitat and should be part of the Habitat Management Areas – as should Upper West Arm and East Lind Coulee Arm.
4. There should be some systematic way for people who use the area to have input as to how things are going. An Advisory Board would be a way of accomplishing this objective.
5. Close the Power Line Road east of Crab Creek.

Hal Lindstrom
1831 Hanson Road
Ellensburg, WA



Jane Grant
14751 Rd E-SE
Othello, WA 99344
April 23, 2001

Mr James Blanchard
USDI Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
P. O. Box 815
Ephrata WA 98823-0815

Letter 65

Dear Mr. James Blanchard,

I am writing in support of the management plan for all the lands in the RMP Study area including the Green zone, Yellow zone & Red zone.

I'm very pleased a BLM plan has been made to address the rapid deterioration of the Potholes Reservoir Public lands in Grant County. Now is the time to provide good management to that area.

This valuable resource is in need of sound and immediate control. As a Thirty-plus year resident and taxpayer of Grant County I want to believe there will still be places like the Potholes Public lands where it will be safe for a variety of outdoor activities including botany studies, hiking, birdwatching, picnicking, etc.

Plan B is a positive plan which should meet the needs of the many faces of outdoor recreationists while protecting wildlife and other unique resources of the area.

Thank you for the many opportunities to participate in the process.

Thoughtfully yours, Jane Grant

4-25-01

Dear Mr. Blanchard,
I have lived in
Moose Lake since 1956.
I love the beauty of
this area, and I resent
any group of people
thinking they can
use it without regard
for the rest of us.

CRV-uses should be
limited to the "green
zone". The red & yellow
zones should be
protected from further
destruction. This is a
fragile area. It's up to
us to save it. Sincerely,
Harriet A. Clark

Letter 67

James Blanchard - potholes comment

From: httpd@borworld.usbr.gov
To: <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 4/23/01 3:46 PM
Subject: potholes comment

From Rick Pukis () on Monday, April 23, 2001 at 16:46:18

address: 39 East 32nd Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99203

message: In reading the Potholes Resource Management Plan EIS, I believe Alternative C should be enacted. I believe vegetation needs to be protected and restored in the area for wildlife needs. I believe that conservation of the area is most important. Far more important than allowing additional ORV use. Thank you.

Submit: Submit

Received: from larry.ellensburg.com
by ibr1pnr5.pn.usbr.gov; Tue, 24 Apr 2001 22:48:02 -0600
Received: from ellensburg.com (mate54.ellensburg.com [206.66.62.54])
by larry.ellensburg.com (8.9.3+Sun/8.9.3) with ESMTP id VAA01860
for <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>; Tue, 24 Apr 2001 21:57:15 -0700 (PDT)
Message-ID: <3AE66017.729EC289@ellensburg.com>
Date: Tue, 24 Apr 2001 21:26:48 -0800
From: George & Mary Ann <macinkos@ellensburg.com>
Reply-To: macinkos@ellensburg.com
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 (Macintosh; I; PPC)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov
Subject: potholes
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; x-mac-type="54455854";
x-mac-creator="4D4F5353"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Mr. Jim Blanchard
>> US Bureau of Reclamation
>> P.O. Box 815
>> Ephrata, WA 98823
>>
>> RE: Regarding the Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan,
Draft EIS
>>
>> Dear Mr. Blanchard:
>>
>> I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Potholes
Reservoir
>> Resource Management Plan, Draft EIS. I urge the adoption of the
preferred
>> alternative, Alternative B, with the following additions:
>>
>> 1.) Funding must be provided to study use and disturbance of habitat
in the
>> Dunes/Sand Island management area. Because there are no sanitation
>> facilities,
>> camping should be limited. Camping should be allowed on certain
islands
>> only,
>> to be determined and posted by the WDFW in order to protect nesting
areas on
>>
>> some islands. Seasonally restrict all watercraft to low speed/minimum

wake

>> operation in the Dunes/Sand Islands management area from April 15 through

>> June 30 to enhance wildlife nesting and breeding success for grebes and

>> colonial nesting birds.

>>

>> 2.) Prohibit motorized watercraft in Upper West Arm and East Lind Coulee

>> Arm.

>> Restrict watercraft to low speed/minimum wake operation in the Upper Crab

>> Creek

>> Arm year-round.

>>

>> 3.) Include as "Habitat Management Areas" the Upper West Arm, Upper Crab

>> Creek,

>> Peninsula South and East Lind Coulee Arm. These are all prime habitat areas,

>>

>> sensitive to human encroachment.

>>

>> 4.) In Habitat Management Areas use the word "restrict" motorized vehicles

>> rather than "prohibit", as this would allow for the development of

>> "Watchable

>> Wildlife Areas".

>>

>> 5.) A specific area should be designated outside the four Habitat Management

>>

>> Areas for personal watercraft in order to protect shallow water nesting

>> areas

>> and shoreline habitat.

>>

>> 6.) Develop an advisory board made up of a representative from each >> interested

>> organization (CBAS, DU, Pheasants Forever, ORVers, etc) to be overseen by

>> WDFW.

>>

>> 7.) Close Power Line Road east of Crab Creek.

>>

>> I am grateful that the Bureau of Reclamation is concerned about
wildlife and

>>

>> wildlife appreciation. Hopefully the new management plan will help to

>> further

>> educate the public about the sensitivity of this unique area so it
can be

>> enjoyed and appreciated by all segments of the population for
generations to

>>

>> come. Thank your for the opportunity to provide my comments.

>>

>> Sincerely,

>>George and Mary Ann Macinko

>> -----

Letter 69

James Blanchard - potholes comment

From: httpd@borworld.usbr.gov
To: <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 4/19/01 11:23 AM
Subject: potholes comment

From Richard J. Rivers () on Thursday, April 19, 2001 at 12:22:51

address: 16810 Columbine
Nine Mile Falls WA 99026

message: Seakayaking is the fastest growing human-powered sport. I seakayak on the Potholes primarily to see wildlife and enjoy the peace and quiet. Please keep ORV's out of the Yellow Zone! Thank You, Richard Rivers M.D.

Submit: Submit

Dear Jim Blanchard.

This letter is in regards to your environmental impact statement on the Potholes Reservoir Resource management Plan. The Dc's preferred Alternative will close the yellow zone. I oppose this closure. effective land management doesn't come from closing the land and putting a fence around it. it comes from letting the people in there to take care of it. I am one of those people. We use the yellow zone for our recreation, which includes wild life watching (Pelicans, sand cranes, beaver, deer, coyotes etc). 4 wheeling & Rest & Relaxation.

My question to you is. Have you ever been out there during the the season yourself? or are you making all of these decisions from behind your desk or at the word of others. If you had ever been there you would understand the uniqueness of the area. it is beautiful out there and we don't want to lose it.

Some people go to baseball, or football games. or some go to bars, some go golfing, anyways, we don't have a ~~sa~~ saeco Field, or a Spokane Arena what we do is we go 4 wheeling with our families in the ml sand dunes. which includes the yellow zone.

(cont)

I have participated in the 2
Protests in front of your office.
We recieved absolutely ~~no~~ no response.
Its like talking to somebody that
can't hear, or doesn't want to hear.

I believe that people are tired
of our govt officials ~~not~~ doing what
the people want. I believe the
people have spoken & they say
~~it~~ to leave the yellow zone alone!!!

I support a modified Alt. D, which
emphasizes recreation development.

I support opening part of the Red zone
now closed. This should be modified to
allow open travel in open sand areas.

Please allow us to manage our
own land I'm certain we will do
a better job than you ~~the~~ bureaucrats
can do. I believe you personally
have no interest in our lands,
and that is our TOTAL interest.

Thank you for your consideration
of my comments, Please keep me
informed.

Ken Douglass
Mild to Wild Auto
Restoration

April 24, 2001

Mr. Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
32 C. Street
Box 815
Ephrata, Washington 98823

Re: Resource Management Plan for Potholes Reservoir

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

After reading Mick Hansen's article on the Sand Dunes ORV area in the Grant County Journal, we would like to state that we are in agreement with him on this issue. In this high-tech age where most people do not get enough physical exercise, this seems like a great place for young people to work off a lot of energy and aggression. It is surely preferable to bored people involved in meth houses, street gangs, cruising the highways looking for excitement, and other such activities. We ask that you seriously consider the proposal that we keep all the land open that is now open and allow roads, parking and camping areas to be developed in the red zone and part of the yellow zone.

Since we don't know what problems exist, we ask that you consider any concerns our Grant County Sheriff may have. He would be the knowledgeable one on this. However, it does seem like a good place for tourists, if there are facilities there to keep them there.

Sincerely,

Dennis O'Keefe

Linda O'Keefe

434 C Street N. E.
Ephrata, Washington 98823

From: Marchione Curt T PSNS <marchionec@psns.navy.mil>
To: "jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov" <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 4/24/01 7:15AM
Subject: Potholes RMP

This is my response to the "Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement".

The preferred alternative, "alternative B" is to restrictive, especially as it relates to "yellow zone" closures. Management by closure is not management at all. My concern with additional closures include the fact that your department has not considered methods for people who have historically used ORV's as a means of transportation to be able to fish, view wildlife and enjoy many other "Human Dune Activities", (HDA). My family and I have enjoyed HDA's for the past 30 years. As I get older and am unable to walk the long distances required to do HDA's do you expect me and others to stop enjoy these areas? What provision have you included in the plan to make it possible for physically limited people to access these areas? I await your response.

V/R Curt Marchione

CC: "marchioneT@earthlink.net" <marchioneT@earthlink.net>

Received: from blv-smtpout-01.boeing.com
by ibr1pnr5.pn.usbr.gov; Wed, 25 Apr 2001 15:22:18 -0600
Received: from blv-av-01.boeing.com ([192.54.3.60])
by blv-smtpout-01.boeing.com (8.9.2/8.8.5-M2) with ESMTP id OAA04862
for <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>; Wed, 25 Apr 2001 14:22:16 -0700 (PDT)
Received: from blv-hub-01.boeing.com (localhost [127.0.0.1])
by blv-av-01.boeing.com (8.9.3/8.9.2/MBS-AV-01) with ESMTP id OAA06690
for <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>; Wed, 25 Apr 2001 14:22:11 -0700 (PDT)
Received: from xch-pssbh-03.nw.nos.boeing.com by blv-hub-01.boeing.com with
ESMTP for jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov; Wed, 25 Apr 2001 14:22:01 -0700
Received: by xch-pssbh-03.nw.nos.boeing.com with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
id <20S62W6P>; Wed, 25 Apr 2001 14:22:01 -0700
Message-Id:
<8006AC6A777F3F4F8B2A6383C19C5B7A02ECC55B@XCH-NW-01.nw.nos.boeing.com>
From: "Carbaugh, Ritchie A" <Ritchie.Carbaugh@PSS.Boeing.com>
To: "jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov" <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
Subject: Moses Lake Sand Dunes.
Date: Wed, 25 Apr 2001 14:21:58 -0700
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2650.21)
Content-Type: text/plain

If it's not too late...

You will find there will be more emails from people like me who just found out about the possibility of CLOSING the Moses Lake Dunes.

I am opposed to closing the Dunes. I am not familiar with all the issues, but I see many areas I use and enjoy being closed because a handfull of people miss use the recreational areas. I work many times each year cleaning out trial areas. I rarely see wilderness conservatives working to clean only complain about the recreational users. PLEASE do not close the Moses Lake Sand Dunes. It is a wonderful place.

Ritch Carbaugh
2 Big Broncos 4x4 Club.
www.2bigbronzos.org

Received: from borworld.usbr.gov
by ibr1pnr5.pn.usbr.gov; Thu, 26 Apr 2001 18:56:22 -0600
Received: (from httpd@localhost)
by borworld.usbr.gov (8.9.3+Sun/8.9.3) id SAA18004;
Thu, 26 Apr 2001 18:56:19 -0600 (MDT)
Date: Thu, 26 Apr 2001 18:56:19 -0600 (MDT)
Message-Id: <200104270056.SAA18004@borworld.usbr.gov>
To: jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov
From: (Lynn Brownell)
Subject: potholes comment

From Lynn Brownell () on Thursday, April 26, 2001 at 18:56:19

address: 29430 SE 15th PI
Fall City WA 98024

message: I wish I had found out about this sooner!

I prefer action A, will settle for D.

B and C are not acceptable. Potholes is the only marginally acceptable sand dune riding area in WA state. Restricting the riding area will negatively impact rider safety.

I would prefer to see more Friday and Saturday night patrols for illegal dumping and designated fire pits.

Submit: Submit

Received: from borworld.usbr.gov
 by ibr1pnr5.pn.usbr.gov; Thu, 26 Apr 2001 16:18:30 -0600
 Received: (from httpd@localhost)
 by borworld.usbr.gov (8.9.3+Sun/8.9.3) id QAA17799;
 Thu, 26 Apr 2001 16:18:27 -0600 (MDT)
 Date: Thu, 26 Apr 2001 16:18:27 -0600 (MDT)
 Message-Id: <200104262218.QAA17799@borworld.usbr.gov>
 To: jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov
 From: (Rik Lewis)
 Subject: potholes comment

 From Rik Lewis () on Thursday, April 26, 2001 at 16:18:27

address: P.O. Box 958
 North Bend, WA 98045

message: Thank you for extending the comment period through today. I just heard about this recently, so my first comment is that I don't beleive that the word has gotten out there, especially for us "coasters" as the locals call us.

75. I have already enjoyed the dunes 3 times this year and typically average about 20 visits. My family and I have enjoyed the dunes for almost 20 years now (I'm 39) and have seen a lot of the changes first hand. We have lost a considerable amount of acreage through the years and the loss of more will significantly impact the remaining areas as well. As you probably know, some the area under consideration for closure is not used as much as the area closer to the camp grounds. On a busy day, people are practically crashing into each other now, and with the loss of additional acreage, people will damage the camping area even moreso. With the loss of more acreage, accidents will occur more often and as you know, people will not follow the rules requiring additional man hours to enforce any land use changes. Furthermore, with less riding areas, won't this encourage more land use problems with ORV riders breaking laws in other areas? What about the farmers? They have absorbed ! a lot of our acreage already....Does farming encourage wildlife and and plant preservation or developement? By the way, what ever happened to the \$400,000 the county received in ORV funds to repurchase land back to expand the dunes (received this information 1st hand from the county police officers that patrol the dunes)? If you are going to eliminate our use of the pot holes during the summer, are you going to police the speculated damage caused by the boaters as well?

In short, my family, my brothers and sisters, as well as extended family that live in Moses Lake and Warden, adamantly oppose any change to land use in this area.

We are very concened about the use of the dunes during holiday weekends and I

beleive that it is those weekends and the vistors that only come for those weekends, are causing the bulk of the problems and we support recent changes that further protect and police the area. I think that this is were our resources should focus on, not limiting use of the area.

Too bad we missed the hearings so our "coaster" views could be heard. I wonder how the business community likes the idea of loosing recreational funds/business, if any of the proposed changes are approved. Maybe we should be writing on the money, as we did in Cle Elum. Ask them whether they miss the recreational funds loss....

Please don't make what we love to do against the law. Control the area we have now, don't take it away.

Submit: Submit

To Whom it may concern,

Each and every person has a hobby, I do not go out and try to ruin someone else's sport or try to get what they like to do shut down.

Who ever is trying this, needs to go back to there own little sport and leave our area and sport alone. This is a get away for myself and Family and I mean all my Family, kids, grand kids & Wife.

Please do not take away our enjoyment in life.

If you take away things for kids to do you only force them to get in trouble.

Les Hill Jr.

We just wanna have
 so much fun! It's a ~~free~~ country
 to whom it may concern

I am Barbara Peters. I absolutely love the
 sand Dunes. In our truck we always bond and
 jump out of our seats. And a lot of
 us love the sand dunes. But I don't
 think you have the rite to take
 one of the most funnest places away
 from Moses Lake. Please Please
 don't tak the sand Dunes away! What
 fun without the Dunes. The fun
 never stops when your at the
 Dunes. And be-sides the Animals
 aren't stupid. So please just do

D-O-N-'t

Sincerely

Barbara Peters

906 Ironwood Moses Lake WA 98837

To whom it may concern

Hi my name is Kathy, I am one of the sandunes biggest fans, first of all, the yellow area is already closed most the time and if you close that much of the sandunes it will become way, way, way crowded.

Listen up people, I am a great animal lover and I know for a fact that animals arnt as stupid as you seem to think. They know where to live I mean if rigs are passing through there not going stay there.

What I'm really trying to say is Moses Lake a boring town and the sand dunes is the only fun thing and to take it away well thats just

Mean

906 Ironwood
Moses Lake WA 98837

From,
Kathy Taylor-Peter

MAR 26 2001

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

P.O. BOX 815
EPHRATA, WA 98823

Potholes Reservoir Resource Management Plan

Dear Mr. Jim Blanchard,

Enhanced Alternative "D"

Open up the Red and Yellow zone year round, water levels would limit access to a lot of the areas.

Allow camping on both sides of the road at numerous locations, starting at the South Outlet. This would make a much more friendly entrance, and would relieve the grouping we now find at the competition hill area.

Allow a year round perimeter road in the red and yellow zone on the west side of the O.R.V. area for safety and access. To be used by the O.R.V.'s, fishing, bird watching, rescue and fire control. It is unaccessable at this time.

Crab Creek and Lake O'Sullivan make a natural boundary.

A possible modification to the existing sand dune road with O.R.V. travel areas on the edge of the road.

This will cost the B. of R. nothing. It will cost the taxpayer nothing more than they are paying now.

The B.of R. never seems to have money to make improvements they are proposing, let the people in the area get the job done.

My equipment is available at no cost if these changes can be made. Scrapers, dozers, dump trucks and loader, my time and fuel.

This will help the balance between wildlife and recreation.

This will help the local economy in the Moses Lake area, which in my opinion, is very poor at this time.

The City of Moses Lake has spent millions on parks, ball fields, water parks, and the amphitheater, trying to bring people to this area and take care of the local people.

This O.R.V. area brings in more "out of the area" people than any other facility in Grant County other than the Gorge.

Allow this O.R.V. area to become the top in the nation, it already is in the top 10 or top 20 depending on which magazine you read.

Allow the Job Corp, service groups, 4 wheel drive groups to sponsor restrooms, garbage pickup, fire rings, and help with crowd control.

Listen to the people at the two public hearings, be a hero, give the people what they want. Prove that the government can work for the people.

Allow the area to be managed, not mismanaged.

Leave the mosquito control to the Grant County Mosquito control. Don't take on the liability of trying to change things.

If you have any questions or wish to make comments: send them to:

Mick Hansen
1828 Fairway Dr. N.E.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
509-765-3921 cell 750-1800

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mick Hansen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed contact information.

March 26, 2001

Gary A. Main
1008 Laguna Drive
Moses Lake, Washington 98837

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
32 C Street, Box 815
Ephrata, Washington 98823

Dear Sir:

I would like to address a few issues of the DEIS for Potholes Reservoir.

As time evolves, the human population increases creating the increased need for everything; the clean air we breathe, the water we need to support life, our toys, the areas to recreate, the list is endless.

We as humans have a tendency to be greedy. We look out for ourselves first and foremost.

The US Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation is also a group of humans that shows greed in a different way. By closing or restricting areas of the Reservoir you will be forcing the hunters, ORV people, jet ski enthusiasts, fisher people, bird watchers, campers, boaters, hikers and whoever else to move somewhere else. But, this will be okay because it will alleviate the problem for you. Maybe the excess from these groups will go to Walla Walla, Port Angeles, Spokane or Vancouver areas - just get them out of your sight.

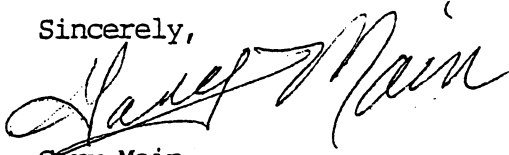
Rather than taking away the existing space from these groups, why don't you come up with a plan that allows the different groups to pursue their form of recreation and co-exist with each other.

The Grant County Sheriff's Department is trying a permit or limited entry into the ORV area on specific days this year. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife is conducting a study trying to find out what happened to the fish. Sportsmen groups are working on habitat problems. You people want to close the Reservoir down or crowd the different user groups into smaller areas.

- 2 -

The \$450,000 that was spent on the DEIS seems to me would have been better used to hire a deputy sheriff or a fish and wildlife officer or even another person in your own office to better enforce the rules that are in existence and remove the "bad apples" so the rest of us can enjoy this fantastic place in the middle of nowhere.

Sincerely,



Gary Main

Letter 81

James Blanchard - potholes comment

From: httpd@borworld.usbr.gov
 To: <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
 Date: 4/17/01 9:55 PM
 Subject: potholes comment

 From Jeff Keefe () on Tuesday, April 17, 2001 at 22:54:36

address: 13506 se 37th st
 Bellevue, WA 98006

- 81A message: I have enjoyed the Moses lake sand dunes as a dirtbike rider since 1977. Now at age 42 I take my family there for riding, camping, boating, sandrailing, etc at least 25 times every year. We are Adamantly opposed to ANY change to the dunes from what they are now. I read in the 472 page report that a public meeting was held here in Bellevue some 4 years ago. I really wish i would have known, for i would have a lot to say, but how am i suppost to know? There were no postings at the ORV area. I always spoke the the local ORV sheriff, Nick Derx, who is personable and fair. Never any mention.
- 81B I am unable to understand the reason for any action. This has always been a ORV park, not a game preserve. If that is what you desire, go across Crab Creek. Basically the habitat is the same for +30 miles. A man made one, mind you. What habitat is endangered anyway? Section E-12 says that population of many species were, "Confoundedly spectacular". Section F-3 said bald eagle populations were up from 1 in 1978 to 35 in '97. Vegetation comparisons from photos were flawed when it was revealed the you were comparing black and white photos to infared, during different seasons, spring, vs. summer. Hello?
- 81C Did i also read that one of the plans would stop all mosquito spraying except for the state park? sec G-21. You've got to be kidding.

In short, someone needs to step up and reopen some of the massive amounts of land where we used to ride. I remember when we could ride way past the treatment ponds to the east. Before the circles were put in and the fence built, we had 3 times more land to explore than now. If you go to the website "terraserver.com" you can see where we used to go

Letter 82

James Blanchard - Moses Lake Sand Dunes

From: "Rick Westra" <rgwestra@qosi.net>
To: <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 4/16/01 9:03 AM
Subject: Moses Lake Sand Dunes

We am writing you concerning the plans to close the Sand dunes in Moses Lake to Four wheelers and We am asking you not to do that.

We are youth pastors here in Quincy and we have three children and both hold down full time jobs.

When we finally get to get away from all of the rush we go four wheeling. It is one of the only things we really get some relaxation out of.

Our Family enjoys hunting fishing and four wheeling.

I know alot of environmentalists would love to take all of those things away from us and we can't just sit back and let that happen.

I know that your first priority in your position is to be fair and just in all of your decision making or atleast it should be, I don't know where you stand on this but i think that it is time that we stop being so one sided on these decisions.

It seems to me that these people (That i am sure think they are helping the environment) are taking away what we love piece by piece.

It isn't right and We are asking you to put a stop to it.

Thank you for considering our point.

Mr.&Mrs. Rick Westra

April 6, 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

My name is Brian Miller Jr. and I'm very angry at what you and your agency the "Bureau of Reclamation" are doing with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement or (DEIS) at Moses Lake Sand Dunes. My family, friends and I, have been going over to Moses Lake for over ten years. We love our time and fun in that area.

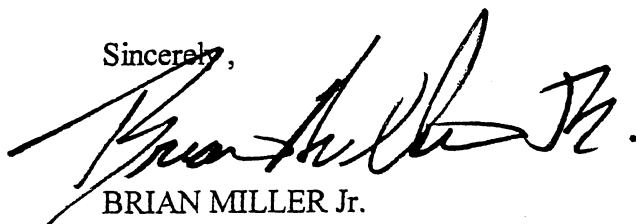
The Potholes are already closed for most of the year for ORV use because of Environmental reasons. Now your agency wants to close the "yellow zone". We the people want to keep the state park open for off road ORV use. We the people already pay for these state parks to be open, buy our ORV tabs and registration fees, plus our taxes from our state and the federal government money, to keep public land open for everyone. It's only a matter of time before your agency or some other agency gets some crazy idea to close the rest of the State Park. Every year the Dunes are getting smaller and smaller, it's like a pie, taking a little more and more away, then there's nothing left. You can tell us "the people" "we aren't going to close anymore" but come on, were not stupid.

I'm outraged about this proposal, because it's the people state park, not the Bureau of Reclamation or any other agency for that matter. There is enough land that's already protected for environmental purpose, so much land has already been taken back. Therefore, we see no need for continuing to take more land from the Moses Lake Sand Dunes State Park. State parks were set up by the state for personal, and family recreational use.

The forms that I've enclosed are from some of the patrons that also use the sand dunes. They're also angered and concerned about the latest closure proposal and any future action or closure that may affect the ORV STATE PARK at Moses Lake.

Please send me any further information concerning this matter. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



BRIAN MILLER Jr.

3525 100th Dr S.E.
Everett, WA 98205

Letter 84

James Blanchard - Sand Dunes

From: <Scout4wheeldrive@aol.com>

To: <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>

Date: 4/11/01 10:37 PM

Subject: Sand Dunes

I personally don't want the sand dunes to be closed do to the high impact. First, of all it is a good place to camp, fish, and ride dirt bikes. Second, I just want to be able to go have somewhere fun to ride my bikes and to 4 wheel. There wont be as many tourists in the town if they are shut down. I think it would be OK if certain parts where off limits or something fore a little while. I really don't think that it is hurting the land all that much. Well, I hope my favorite sand dunes will still be open this year when I plan my vacation. Thanks

April 8, 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard

85A

My family and I have enjoyed riding at the dunes for many years my son is just now getting the enjoyment of the area and is being taught how to pick up after him self and leave the area as it was found .
I wish to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement For the potholes Reservoir Management plan. This riding experience that is available is important to myself and my family . Please support it and not further restrict it .

The alternative will close the yellow zone which accounts for 44% of the OHV area the zone is already closed seasonally as it is Myself and my family oppose this closure.

This closure will increase the number of users in a confined area which in my opinion will increase safety hazards among the already many users of the area. This will decrease the ability of OHV users to see much of the neat areas that the dunes hold .

85B

OHVs help maintain open sand and decrease the over growth of the vegetation which will increase the ability of predation so that is not helping the growth of the shorebird population that will diminish it. Please consider how OHVs help maintain the open sand ecosystem of the dunes .

I do support the Alternative D which emphasizes recreation development. I support the part of D that opens part of the red zone,now closed. Alternative D limits travel to designated roads and trails in the yellow zone. This should be modified to allow open travel in open sand areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments please keep me informed.

Sincerely,

Jeff ,Carol,and Braiden Bellinger
5539 RockIsland Rd.
RockIsland, Washington 98850

Letter 86

James Blanchard - Sand Dunes

From: Misti L Munns <mistim21@juno.com>
To: <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 4/9/01 7:02 AM
Subject: Sand Dunes

I am a member of the "Just Internationals" club. We were not pleased to hear that you are considering closing some of the Moses Lake Sand Dunes. We are a family club and have taken our children there for years to enjoy the sun and sand. We do not want to see any of the Dunes close. This includes the yellow zone, wich should have been returned to us for full access years ago. We have seen many of our local retreats close do to the lates tree hugger craze. We pay our taxes and are law abiding citizens. Please do not allow them to close any of our dunes under the pretence of envireonmental smoke screens. We the offroaders take care of our dunes. I think the goverments time and effort would be much better spent somewhere else. I travel to Moses Lake with my job and know how these closures would negatively effect the economy. God gave us this land to use not to let sit and rot away. Thank you for you time.

Todd Munns and family

Letter 87

James Blanchard - potholes comment

From: httpd@borworld.usbr.gov
To: <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 4/9/01 7:02 AM
Subject: potholes comment

From Todd Munns () on Sunday, April 8, 2001 at 23:19:21

address: 4606 N. Vista, Spokane, Wa. 99212

message: I represent a large off road club called the "Just Internationals" We are a family club that enjoys the use of the Moses Lake Sand Dunes every year. We are highly displeased to hear that you are considering closing a portion of the dunes do to environmental impact. This is the craziest thing I have ever heard. Leave our Dunes alone. We have been taking our families there for years and frankly are tired of loosing our trails and orv sites to tree huggers. We pay our taxes and should be allowed to use the land as we please. We do not abuse the land. We spend much of our time cleaning and taking care of it. We believe in taking care of our resources. We plead with you to not close the dunes. I also travel and work in the Moses Lake area and realize what an impact these closures would have on the local community.

Submit: Submit

11

Letter 88

James Blanchard - Comments to Reclamation

From: Joe Smalley <joes@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil>
To: <www_comments@borworld.usbr.gov>
Date: 3/27/01 1:51 PM
Subject: Comments to Reclamation

From Joe Smalley (joes@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil) on Tuesday, March 27, 2001 at 14:51:24

message: Today is the end of the comment period on the DEIS for the Potholes Reservoir Management Plan. The DEIS seems to be written with the assumption that the Yellow Zone is to be closed to ORV use regardless of the scientific evidence presented in the document. Please keep the land open to all present users. Please don't close it. It is one of my favorite places to vacation every September.

previous_page: <http://www.usbr.gov/main/comments.html>

REMOTE_HOST: 140.178.33.123

3-23-2001

Letter 89

JIM BLANCHARD
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
P.O. BOX 815
EPHRAATA WA 98823

ERIK BORG
8801 STONECREST RD N
MOSES LAKE WA
98837
(509) 762-0194

DEAR MR BLANCHARD

I HAVE BEEN A RESPONSIBLE USER OF
THE MOSES LAKE SAND DUNES FOR OVER
25 YEAR. THE SAND DUNES ARE A GREAT
ASSET TO THE MOSES LAKE COMMUNITY.

I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE ANY REDUCTION
IN SIZE OF THE SAND DUNES THEY ARE
TO SMALL AS IT IS. AS OF NOW I ONLY
BRINGS MY KIDS OUT THERE IN THE WINTER
OR DURING THE WEEK IN THE SUMMER. PLEASE
CONTACT ME WITH ANY INFORMATION I CAN
USE TO KEEP THE SAND DUNES OPEN TO
ALL. (MAYBE NO ~~ALCOHOL~~ DRINKING WOULD HELP)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

ERIK BORG





Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet
Bureau of Reclamation

or FAX 509-754-0239

Name: Walter Dail Farrar

Address: 1650 Dame Farm Rd.
Ellensburg, WA 98924

Comments:

We oppose the closure of the sand dunes, it is getting smaller due to development. Please do not allow the closure of this recreational area.

Dail L. Farrar
Walter L. Farrar

Letter 91

James Blanchard - potholes comment

From: httpd@borworld.usbr.gov
To: <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 3/27/01 7:41 PM
Subject: potholes comment

From Bernie Hermann () on Tuesday, March 27, 2001 at 20:41:32

address: 725 Shipmaster Ct
Moses Lake, WA 98837

message: I ride my off-road motorcycle at the Moses Lake Dunes and would like to see the riding area stay the same as it is now. The area proposed for closure is only used part of the year. If the yellow area is closed, it will be too crowded and dangerous in the busy times of the year. The displaced users might start riding in undesignated areas. Limiting usage would have a big impact on the economy in the area. I live close to the entrance and see many people stopping by the stores on their way to and from the dunes.

Please reconsider proposing alternative B as the desired alternative.

Submit: Submit

Letter 92

James Blanchard - potholes comment

From: htpd@borworld.usbr.gov
To: [<jbblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>](mailto:jbblanchard@pn.usbr.gov)
Date: 3/26/01 7:44 AM
Subject: potholes comment

From Mark Hergert () on Friday, March 23, 2001 at 16:36:39

address: P.O.Box 586
Entiat, Wa. 98822

92A

Emessage: Please extend the comment period on the Potholes DEIS as many interested parties were not notified of the meeting.

92B

We really can't afford to lose another recreation area for alot of people that need to "re-create" themselves at times during their stressful lives.

Thank you,
Mark Hergert

Submit: Submit

Letter 93

James Blanchard - potholes comment

From: httpd@borworld.usbr.gov
To: <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 3/22/01 9:56 AM
Subject: potholes comment

From tony ahms () on Thursday, March 22, 2001 at 10:55:40

address: 11109 4th ave west everett wa.

message: please dont do it lots of youngsters would be devistated!and my freind mitch would be deeply hurt.because he could not drive his jeep there. not to mention he is buying lots of new toys on the account of the dunes thats were he got his start in off roading.

Submit: Submit



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet
Bureau of Reclamation

Name: BRETT BRADLEY

Address: 1009 DIBB ST.
BREMERTON WA 98310

94 Comments: My family in the past has enjoyed
the Potholes Reservoir Recreational Area for
many years. We take long weekends
and special vacations in this area
and would like to continue to enjoy
this area for many years to come.
We Do Not support the restriction or
reduction of this Recreational Area in any
way. We request the area be enlarged
to accommodate the ever increasing
number of users to minimize the
wear & tear impact to the area.

Brett Bradley

March 21, 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
32 C Street, Bpx 815
Ephrata, Washington 98823

RE: Potholes DEIS

Dear Jim Blanchard:

95. I wish to state that I am opposed to the alternative plan B. My preferred alternative is really not offered in the DEIS, but alternative plan D is as close as I could expect. I would prefer to have all the land east of the Crab Creek channel spillway opened up to ORV use. The logical boundary is the creek, where user groups would not be able to encroach into protected wildlife areas. By using this plan the user groups would still only have less than 5,000 acres in the potholes area and wildlife habitat would have in the area of 99,000 acres. This is not an equal or fair division of property in the potholes, but I feel that this would be the easiest solution. In the past, government agencies have just gone the easy way and closed the area off to ORV use; this is not an acceptable alternative. Please consider my opinion when governing the land at the potholes.

Thank you

Karen Livezey

Desert Rat

Pacific NW Four Wheel Drive Association

2603 Round 56
Pasco WA 99301



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet
Bureau of Reclamation

Name: FRANCES JONES

Address: 535 CASTLE DR
MOSES LAKE WA 98837

Comments:

THIS LAND SHOULD BE MANAGED NOT CONTROLLED. CLOSING
AREAS TO THE PUBLIC IS NOT GOOD MANAGEMENT.
IF ALTERNATIVES A THRU D ARE THE ONLY CONDITIONS
WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTED THEN ALTERNATIVE D SEEMS
TO BE THE MOST ACCEPTABLE. CONSIDER THE LOCAL USERS,
BEFORE A DECISION IS REACHED. DON'T CONFISCATE OUR LAND.

1000603
1451
3-15-01

2003

LND-8100

March 13, 2001

Letter 97

Mr. Jim Blanchard
Ephrata Field Office
Bureau of Recreation
32 "C" Street N.W.
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Jim Blanchard:

I am strongly opposed to your **MANAGEMENT** (as you call it) to the sand dunes ORV area.

This area was set aside as a recreational area to be used for motorized recreation in the 50's and since has been downsized by removing the red area, then came the seasonal closure of the yellow area, now you want to resize it to half its present size! This is not management it's creating more restricted land.

If you want to manage it, I would suggest you open back up the red zone and the yellow zone, leaving the present open area as it is. Create vehicle parking/camping areas at the Potato Hill Road entrance and the West Lake side entrance, where all non ORV permitted vehicles are required to park/camp, closing the road between these two points to any non permitted vehicles. The road through the dunes should be burmmed up so only ORV vehicles could pass over it with locked gates for emergency support vehicles to enter. Any non- ORV licensed vehicles caught it this area would be fined. Now by doing so we can charge for overnight -camping, establish rest rooms and garbage disposal areas, control the types of vehicles we allow into the dunes area by the permits we issue for use, thus stopping all the access to any body just looking for a party. Now you would have a manageable ORV area that would allow those people who are interested in Motorcycles, Dune Buggies, Jeeps, 4-wheelers and Boats to enjoy.

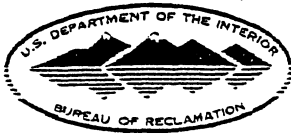
And you know as well as I do, that there is more wildlife out there now than there has ever been. So obviously, the ORV use has not had a detrimental affect on wildlife in this area, so lets put that issue aside and **MANAGE** this area in a manner that the community will benefit.

Also Jim, I would like to know have you ever spent a weekend out in the dunes riding motorcycles with your son? Or sitting on the beach and water-skiing with your family? If not then maybe you should before you continue to support the DEIS proposal.

Sincerely;



Terry Mitchell
9239 Space Street N.E.
Moses Lake
509-766-0102



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet
Bureau of Reclamation

FAX# 509-754-0239

Name: Tracy Miller

Address: 9001 Bong Loop #B
Moses Lake WA 98837

Comments: My family enjoys using the Sand Dunes
I oppose any further reduction in area

I have friends living in Alaska that come to
visit & use our sand dunes.

Letter 99

David McMains
President, Columbia Basin Sand Commandos
603 Meridian Ave.
Moses Lake, WA. 98837

March 19, 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
32 C Street, Bpx 815
Ephrata, Washington 98823

RE: Potholes DEIS

Dear Jim Blanchard:

99 [I wish to go on record that I am opposed to the alternative plan B. My preferred alternative is really not offered in the DEIS, but alternative plan D is as close as I could expect. I would prefer to have all the land east of the Crab Creek channel spillway opened up to ORV use. The logical boundary is the creek, where user groups would not be able to encroach into protected wildlife areas. By using this plan the user groups would still only have less than 5,000 acres in the potholes area and wildlife habitat would have in the area of 99,000 acres. This is not an equal or fair division of property in the potholes, but I feel that this would be the easiest solution. In the past, government agencies have just gone the easy way and closed the area off to ORV use; this is not an acceptable alternative. The sport of off highway vehicle use is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States today. Auto manufacturing companies are building more SUV's and Pickups than regular passenger cars, and are building new manufacturing plants to meet the growing demand. This problem is not going to go away.

The Dames and Moore study is grossly out dated, ORV use has escalated far beyond their expectations and will expand more in the near future. As more land has been closed in the past you are effectively putting more and more people into a smaller and smaller area and then claim that the user groups are destroying the vegetation and taking away wildlife habitat. As user groups, we see the habitat has changed in the last 50 years, mostly to the maturing of the irrigation ecosystem, through use, and the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. The wildlife has always been in the dunes and if any thing has happened they have flourished. Vegetation has really gotten a foothold in the ash that fell from Mt. St. Helens. I personally have been using the dunes since 1974 and have been actively involved in ORV use since then. I am acutely aware of how much use the sand dune area has.

Last August I was contacted by King 5 TV about assisting them do a film clip on the Moses Lake sand dunes. They had done an informal survey and the Moses Lake dunes was voted the best place to go four wheeling in the state. With publicity like that we MUST have a very good place to use. The West Side of the state is growing at such a fast rate that we need to have a very convenient place for them to recreate. To close off area to the public will only invite more damage to closed areas, more disturbances to wildlife, and more enforcement problems for the Grant County Sheriff ORV deputies. If fences are installed, the vandalism that will occur from non-organized ORV users will be very expensive. This is not threat, just a statement based on history of what has happened in the past both here in Moses Lake and other areas around the state that have been traditionally used by ORV and then closed. Sand is also very hard to fence as the dunes do keep moving and a fence is just a place for a dune to form.

You have a unique opportunity to see what organized four wheelers can do for the area in April. The Columbia Basin Sand Commandos are hosting the 28 Th. annual sand dune clean up in the green area. If you would like to see what we could do for the habitat please contact me and I will be glad to show you what the user groups can do. My phone number is 509-765-2922 home, or 509-989-2465 cell, my e-mail is wrongway@nwi.net and my work number is 509-765-8246. The date is April 21, 2001 at 9:00 am. We do love the ground and have great respect for the habitat and wildlife.

I hope that you can see the error in closing off Orv areas, and open up Opportunities for the habitat and the wildlife. If the wildlife have a place to go, and do not want to stay in the ORV area they can cross the channel and live on the West Side of the Crab Creek Channel.

Thank you,
David McMains



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet
Bureau of Reclamation

Name:

Kay Smith

Address:

1417 Lue

Moore Lake, WA 98837

Comments:

*I am opposed to the Bureau closing
any more land in the Sand Dune area*



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet
Bureau of Reclamation

Name: L. D. Smith

Address: P.O. Box 222
Moses Lake wa 98837

Comments:

I do not favor closing the yellow
area in the sand dunes or closing any
more of the sand dunes



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet
Bureau of Reclamation

or FAX 509-754-0239

Name: Cynthia Farrar

Address: 1137 Tullis St NE
Olympia, WA 98506

Comments:

I oppose closing the yellow area of the Sand Dunes. My family enjoys the sand dunes recreational area each year when we go to Moses Lake. The smaller area would increase safety of the riders and spectators.

Thank you
Sincerely

Cynthia Farrar

STEVE & LAURA BECKER

March 20, 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. BOX 815
Ephrata, WA. 98823

Dear Friend,

Our family, and several other families and friends of ours, we would like to speak for, "as I am assured they are not aware of the actions that are being proposed for Moses Lake Sand Dunes Area," are asking you to reconsider any closure of the park. There are few recreational places of this kind available already. Our family drives 2.5 hours several times a year, just to enjoy the Dunes.

If people aren't respecting the seasonally restricted areas of the park it is because the park needs new signage. It is hard to see where the restricted area begins and ends. Most people are honest and do not want to loose their privileges of using the park.

Using this area for recreation is keeping our families together and off the streets, it is a healthy wonderful experience we enjoy together. Camping, 4-wheeling & bike riding is what our family does, please don't take that away from us, it is our environment too!

The DEIS should consider the effects of closure of the sandy areas, Oregon sand dunes are being taken over by vegetation and it is sad that my grandchildren may never experience them in their lifetime.

I support a modified Alternative D, which emphasizes recreation development. I support the part of D that opens part of the Red Zone, now closed. This should be modified to allow open travel in sand areas.

Thank You ! for your serious consideration of my comments. Please keep me informed.
Becker716@Juno.com

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2,20,2001

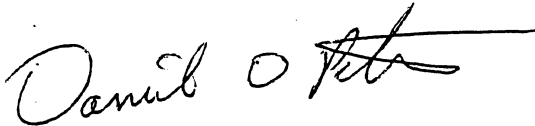
Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamtion
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, Wa, 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard

I recently had the oportunity to look over a large booklet containing several management plans for the potholes area. I cannot express how upset this made me when I found out that the prefered plan cut out over 40% of the OHV area of the sand dunes. I am totaly opposed to closing the yellow zone of the dunes ,after all it is only open a short season as it is now.As it is now this is the area my family and freinds spend most of our vacation time and much of our money in durring the summer. I was born here and the sand dunes have been a big part of my life , my kids have been in the dunes their whole lives . I defintly spend thousands of dollars on things related directly to the sand dunes. If the dunes are made smaller and smaller the users will be forced to take their money and go elsewhere and this area will suffer for it .I could go on but I want you to know that I for one would support a revised plan D That opens some of the red zone and allows the yellow zone to have unlimmited travel and a longer season.

Thank you for your time,Please keep me informed

Sincerely,



Daniel D Peters
906 s. Ironwood
Moses Lake, WA 98837

100450
1451
2-22-01

2003

LND-8102

Dear Jim

105 [Save the (yellow zone) our mudflats
 ORV use only 90 days a year. This is
 not unreasonable. That only 14 weekends a year.
 Played there since I was a kid, fishing motorcycles
 and 4 wheeling. family events. We tread Lightly.
 We respect the environment. Always pick up trash
 from coastys and unthankful locals. ORV property
 is valuable to the public for Recreation and
 future family events. **SAVE YELLOW ZONE AND**
EASTERN DUNES. PLEASE It's THE FUNNEST PLACE
 ON EARTH.

Delek Ball
 4501 Fairchild Loop
 Moses Lake WA 98837

YELLOW ZONE LOVER
 Delek Ball

March 01, 2001

Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Jim Blanchard
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA. 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard,

My family and I moved to this area in 1968. One of things that attracted us to this area is the hunting, fishing, and other recreation available.

My son enjoyed many hours riding in the sand dunes. He competed in some dirt bike races and although I personally did not find this type of recreation to my liking I was glad he and his friends had an opportunity to take advantage of this sport.

106 [It seems to me we would be doing a great disservice to many folks in Moses Lake and to all those coming here to enjoy some open, outdoor recreation. In today's world where more and more of our lands are being taken away from the people I would hope we would not lose the Moses Lake sand Dunes OHV Area. We protect land from logging and the wildlife already. Let's keep this land available for people to explore and enjoy.

Thank you for your careful consideration in this important matter.

Respectfully,

Sandra H. Liley

*Sandra Liley
P.O. Box 683
Moses Lake, WA. 98837*

1000501
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3-2-01

2003

LND-8100

Dear Mr. Blanchard,

I have been riding at Moses Lake Sand dunes since I was three years old. With my parents. We enjoy it alot. My friends and I don't want to see it close down. It is a great place to go for the weekend and it wouldn't be the same without it. So please don't close it down.

Sincerely,

Chris Ferrera

N. 6204 Adams St
Spokane wa 99205
phone #: 509-325-072.

1000523

1451

3-6-01

2003

LND-8100

Dear Mr. Blanchard

I have been coming to
the song days for many
years. As for me, being only
seventeen I was with the only
gentle and enjoyable the record was
in the mud to the Decca 3716
The Please so the well known
It is only a use of 3 months
which is hardly gives any harm
to the environment. It is only a
my family creeps. Most of all
we respect it. Putting no life
It is a very valuable present
people are now with most of the
hold keep them. Pectoral is
a part of life.

Thank You Much,

Brandon Holland

108

AND-8-00

2003

ACTON

1000533

3-7-01

Dear Sirs-

Letter 109

Enclosed is a copy of
Alt. A. No action map -
I have used this map as it
most closely demonstrates what
I would like to see happen
pertaining to the ORV area -

1) divide the Red Zone into

2 - Parts -

Red Zone - from the Sand
Dunes Road to the west
to the crab creek -

Brown - ~~Zone~~ - from the
Sand Dunes Road - East
to Moses Lake -

109. The Red Zone would stay as
it is now - Closed to ORV use
The Brown Zone would be developed
into camping areas - with a
sand trail to the Dune Area
for user Access. It ~~to~~ would
be closed to ORV use except
for a sand trail to access
the Main Dune area -

2) Leave the Green Zone as
is. Open Year Round

3) Leave the yellow zone as
is. Open July 1 - till Oct 1

I Believe then by making the
ORV Area smaller will be a
very bad decision. Causing
over crowding ^{J-239} - It will also

hurt the local economy - and
make the sport of off Roading
more dangerous - By providing
a Brown Zone for camping.
some of the load now on the
ORV area could be reduced
It would provide people a
quiet & safe camping area
in which to stay. It should
also help reduce the amount
of garbage & fire pits now
in the ORV area - I would
also restrict camping in the
Green Zone to specific areas

Thank you
Bob Archer

Perry Archer

223 Sharon Ave
Moses Lake 98837

Mr. Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815 Ephrata, Wa. 98823

March 08, 2001

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

This letter is to voice my opinion and support for the future planning of the Moses Lake, Grant County ORV Area.

As avid ATVer's my family would like to see more of this ORV area opened up for Off-Road use.

We have been enjoying this area, on the average of eight weekends a year since 1973, we used Dune Buggies back then.

Up until 1993 there used to be about 5000 acres open to ORV's. Since then the area, now encompasses about 1500 acres, almost 3 to 4 times smaller.

This sport of recreation still continues to grow in numbers, so I ask? Why less ground with more people? Anyway you look at this, it just doesn't add up!

In closing, I'd just like to say; Please consider my request to keep as much of this area open, for us die hard off-roaders to enjoy and our sons and daughters families to future enjoy!

THANK YOU

Respectfully,

Mr. Gale Hoerner & Family
703 Lewis st.

WALLA WALLA, WASH. 99362

Mr. Gale Hoerner

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110

11



Potholes Reservoir DEIS Comment Sheet Bureau of Reclamation

Name: Margaret Schiffner

Address: 4840 Westshore Dr. NE

Moses Lake, WA. 98837

Comments:

It is very concerning to us when driving on the overpass at Exit 174
and see a cloud of dust going into the atmosphere. The first time
we saw this dust cloud there was no wind storm in the Basin. In the
CBH the next Monday we read about the thousands of people that had
cause it. Many of these people leave for home and do not read what
they have left behind, soil erosion, garbage and exhausted public
servants. The ORV'ers say it is public land and they should be
allowed to use it, well we are tax payers also and live here the
year around (now 46 years) and would like to know this wonderful
country will still be here for generations to come and so they can know
about the wildlife of the basin.

So I wish to voice my support for WDFW and bureau for their decision
to choose alternative B in their Potholes Resource Management Plan.

Thank you for taking time to read my comments.

Letter 112

James Blanchard - potholes comment

From: httpd@borworld.usbr.gov
To: <jblanchard@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 4/5/01 12:38 PM
Subject: potholes comment

From Ben McKernan () on Thursday, April 5, 2001 at 13:38:06

address: 9998 Maple Drive NE, Unit 18
Moses Lake, WA 98837

message: I prefer Alternative 'B' as the best way to manage the Potholes region of publicly owned lands. I really would like to see 'C' implemented, but if it comes to a majority rule, then I would much rather line up with 'B' than let something like 'A' or 'D' slip into affect. Thanks for the input forum.

Submit: Submit

113

Please adopt Plan A.
As senior citizens we believe the current areas should be left open without development. These areas should be open to fishing and camping without fees. The areas should be vehicle accessible as they are now. Thank you.

Sincerely

Katherine Sweet

5923 Rd J.2 S.E

Mosby Lake WA

98857

Comments Submitted 3/13/2011 ^{received by} A S. Beck JRS

71

Sheldon Ralston
POB 159
Stratford, WA. 98853
sralston@atnet.net
345 0225
Do Good Unto All

February 5, 2001

Mr. Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
PO Box 815
Ephrata, WA. 98823

Dear Mr. Blanchard,

I would like to address a couple of points in regard to the Potholes Reservoir RMP (EIS). I worked the Potholes Reservoir for some 30 years, from 1963 through 1994 for the Department of Game/Wildlife.

In regard to ORVs, in the early years we found them on occasion operating/running on wildlife lands through out many parts of the Columbia Basin. In order to solve one problem another was created when the ORV operators were encouraged to operate in the area of South Moses Lake where they "couldn't hurt anything". It was astonishing the rate, ORV activity grew from a few isolated motorcycles here and there to massive crowds of operators. It was easy to see the nightmare that had developed in a short period of time.

I can remember one three-day weekend when the residents, on the opposite side of Moses Lake complained that something had to be done to reduces the amount of noise and SLOW the ORVs down. I was dispatched to the area south of Westlake and starting from the first spill, I issued 25 citations within an area that reached just beyond the second spill. The word was received that I was there, if you were operating except in an absolute legal manner you were going to be cited, things did quiet down. I certainly did not solve a problem, except on short term, but it did bring peace for a while to south Moses Lake.

I can recall one busy weekend while on boat patrol on the reservoir that looking to the horizon you could see that the seagulls were in frenzy and in circular flight. Going to the island where the commotion was taking place we came upon a couple that had docked their boat on the island shore, extracted their folding aluminum lawn recliners from their craft and were laid back in their chairs in the middle of the seagull rookery enjoying the sun and reading books! After a little discussion they thought they could find another island to bask in the sun!

The stories of conflicts between people and the environment are endless, you have recognized that it is ever changing and search for that balance between resource protection and conservation objectives is essential based upon the rising demand for increased recreation opportunities.

One of the first items under Management and Infrastructure is the concern "lack of adequate resources to provide public services and law enforcement". While I was working in the central basin, wildlife

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officers were stationed in Coulee City, Soap Lake, Ephrata, George, Moses Lake, Royal City and Othello. Today we have a (one) wildlife officer in Moses Lake! For many years two officers were stationed in Moses Lake. The remaining stations are history at this point in time for one reason or another.

Within the Columbia Basin Project are some of the most highly active recreation areas within the state and Olympia fails to see any problems! It seems that if you do not have within an area, bears, cougar, endanger species or big game in general you don't have any problems.

114 [I would agree that Alternative-B is the preferred, but I am not sure what benefit is derived from great plans when the resources for implementation a major part of them is lacking.

I wish you well; I wish that I had answers to the growing problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sheldon Ralston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

March 12, 2001

Letter 115

Jim Blanchard
& Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, WA. 98823

Dear Sir,

115

We are in favor of closing off part the Moses Lake Sand Dune Area. Up until approximately 12 years ago we would take our kids out there fishing or load up the horses and go for a family trail ride. It just became too dangerous for us. We never knew when a 4 wheeler was going to come zooming up and over us. We could not tell from the roar of those machines which direction they were coming from. It just wasn't worth the chance of injury or worse. We would love to have the security of not having vehicles roaring around the entire area. Perhaps, we could take our grandchild fishing.

Sincerely

Sherry Turner

Sherry Turner
8520 Road 11 N.E.
Moses Lake, Wa 98837
1-509-762-6000

1000586
1451
3-13-01

2003

LND-8100

11



Letter 116

Susan Zwinger

PO Box 493
Langley, WA 98260

Phone/FAX 360 / 221-2347

March 18, 2001

Mr. Bill Gray
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata WA 98823

Dear Mr. Gray:

I spend a great deal of time over in the Potholes area as a natural history writer, as a teacher and workshop leader, as a birder, and generally, for my own soul. I have written about your area for a total of five or more national journals now.

I am always appalled by the amount of trash and truck or ORV destruction outside the refuge. Once or twice, camping out there, I have had terrible men come up and verbally abuse or frighten me; they were both part of the Big Truck/ORV crowd.

This is a tremendously beautiful area. Through my natural history writing, I am encouraging a whole new entourage of folks from different parts of the state or other states to come in and spend money to your small towns. These people care passionately about natural history. I am teaching a workshop over there this April on birding and geology, and when I take them around the south of the refuge, the shit will hit the fan.

I realize that the ORV crowd is a loud and vocal group *in your area*, but there is a much wider use for the area than wanton destruction: those of us who love natural history. Keeping Crab Creek and the area vital ecologically will benefit the whole region economically. A healthy ecosystem feeds into the health of all organisms, including healthy farmlife and all humans.

Please support the Preferred Alternative of the Potholes EIS.
In addition, the Yellow Zone of Lower Crab Creek should be permanently closed and rehabilitated. This is such a rich zone! I have seen unusual bird life there.

Please develop trails with good signs to educate people about the richness in diversity and relationships between wildlife and habitat.

Zwinger page 2 ↓

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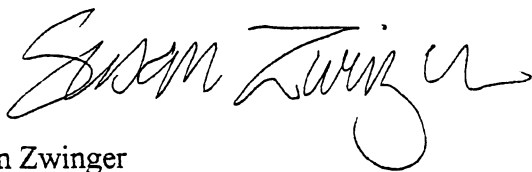
Please support our volunteer and private efforts to plant native species and other rehabilitation projects.

Please enforce cleanup of the severely trashed areas east and south and NE of the refuge.

I know this cost money, and I know your huge territory is hard on an agency without all the rangers you should have, but we support your efforts!

I enclose part of my resume which includes my publication record. I reach thousands of people who treasure this area.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Susan Zwinger

BOOKS:

- 1999 The Last Wild Edge, One Woman's Journey from the Arctic Circle, Yukon to the Olympic Peninsula, Washington, Johnson Books, Boulder, Co.
- 1997 Still Wild, Always Wild, A Journey into the Desert Wilderness of California, Sierra Club Books
- 1991 Stalking the Ice Dragon, A Journey Through Alaska and British Columbia, University of Arizona Press, winner of the 1992 Governor's Author's Award.

ANTHOLOGIES:

- 2000, 2002 Essays, American Nature Writing, ed. John Murray, Portland State U. Press.
- 1999 The Seacoast Reader, ed. John Murray, The Nature Conservancy, New York.
- 1999 Grand Canyon, ed. O'Reilly and Habegger, Travelers' Tales, San Francisco.
- 1997 Writing Down the River, Editor Kathleen Ryan, Northland Press, Flagstaff, Az.
- 1997 Forward, Gifts of the Wild, Seal Press, Seattle, Wa.
- 1997 The Scribner's American Nature Writers, ed. Lorraine Anderson.
- 1997 The Last New Land: Stories of Alaska, ed. Mergler and Haines, Northwest Books.
- 1997 Essay, American Nature Writing, A Collection of distinguished voices in contemporary nature writing, Sierra Club Books.
- 1994 Women in Wilderness, co-authored with Ann Haymond Zwinger, Harcourt Brace and Company.

PUBLICATIONS:

- FEB. 2001 POTHOLES ESSAY AMERICAN WEST AIRLINE MAG
- 2001 "Saving Sacred Sites", Sierra Magazine, San Francisco, Ca.
- 1999 "Awakening Along the Trail of Dreams", California Wild, San Francisco, Ca.
- 1998 "Nocturnal Cantata", Plateau Journal, Grand Canyon Association, Flagstaff, Az.

Zwinger page 3

- 1998 Introduction to the 1998 Sierra Club Calendar.
- 1998 "Coming of Age in the Grand Canyon", American West Magazine, Phoenix, Az.
- 1998 "The Cold, Hard Truth", American West Magazine, Phoenix, Az.
- 1997 "Kingston Mountains", American West Magazine, Phoenix, Az.
- 1995 "The Boreal Forest", Backpacker Magazine, Emmaus, Pa.
- 1995 "Tidal Pools", Travel Choices Northwest, Seattle, Wa.
- 1995 essay, Left Bank, Literary Journal, Or.
- 1994 essay, The Seattle Weekly Newspaper, Seattle, Wa.
- 1992-5 Drawings, essays, investigative reporting, The Island Independent Newspaper
- 1993 drawings, essay, Literature and the Environment, University of Nevada, Reno

Zwinger page 4

- 1993 "Genocide", Wild Earth, Vermont
1993 "Genocide", Wildflower Magazine, Canada
1992 Diverse views essay, Seattle Arts, Seattle Arts Council
1983-7 exhibition reviews for El Palacio
Artspace Magazine, American Ceramics,
1980-7 Art critic for The Santa Fe Reporter and The Albuquerque Journal North
1969-73 poems in Poetry Magazine, North American Review, New Letters, The
Northwest Review, Ecologue

PROFESSIONAL:

- 1995-2002 Workshop Instructor, North Cascades Institute, Wa.
1998 Non-Fiction Faculty, Centrum Writers' Conference, Port Townsend, Wa.
1995-7 Artist-In-Resident, Wa. State Arts Commission
1992-2002 Workshop instructor for Audubon, Sierra Club,
The Nature Conservancy in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska

MAR DON RESORT ON POTHOLES RESERVOIR

March 28, 2001

Jim Blanchard
Bureau of Reclamation
Ephrata Field Office
32 C Street, Box 815
Ephrata, WA 98823

RE: Page 2-32, paragraph one

Dear Mr. Blanchard,

We were pleased with your intent to renew the 30-acre recreational lease agreement mentioned in the above paragraph. Thank you for your continued faith in us.

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I have had an ongoing dialogue with Mr. Gale Allen, Department of Natural Resources, in reference to this lease. As you know, this lease originated with your Bureau, leasing to Washington State Parks (SPRC) who in turn lease to The Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) who currently lease to the Meseberg Family. We refer to the 30-acre lease as Section 17, Lease No. 62395. Section 16 is an 11-acre piece of land on the southwest shores of Potholes Reservoir, which is owned by the WDNR. The WDNR has a lease with us for Section 16 that expires in 2013.

I have long voiced a concern to Mr. Allen about the many layers of bureaucracy attached to Section 17. Mr. Allen has spoken of the possibility of leasing directly from the Bureau to WDNR, thus bypassing the SPRC. I would like to go on record as being in favor of this change.

I would also request that you consider this change and adjustment to paragraph one on page 2-32 of the RMP.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully yours,


Marilyn M. Meseberg
President

Cc: Gale Allen, DNR, Spokane office

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Response to Comments

Letter 1

Comment 1A

We will add a general statement regarding the possible impacts of altered drainage patterns due to the proposed Potholes State Park and trail expansion (Section 4.3.3).

Comment 1B

Suitability analysis conducted in the Potholes study area identified areas that would have the greatest potential for habitat restoration, while considering recreational, visitor, and support needs. The Preferred Alternative would have a positive net benefit to the shrub-steppe component in Potholes Reservoir (FEIS pg. 4-13) because it would designate approximately 4,000 acres as Habitat Conservation Areas that would be managed for those components beneficial to terrestrial, aquatic, and botanical species.

Comment 1C

Page 4-10 Section 4.3.3 discusses actions of the RMP that would affect water quality. Construction activities would cause negligible long-term impacts to water quality. There is no applicable TMDL for Potholes.

Comment 1D

Changes in management of the RMP area would benefit habitat for aquatic, terrestrial, and botanical species.

Comment 1E

The FEIS discusses restricting all watercraft, including jet boats, to the low speed/minimum wake operation.

Letter 2

Thank you for your review.

Letter 3

In response to comments from and discussions with concerned groups and individuals, the Preferred Alternative (Alternative B) would be modified to reflect changes in the proposed Yellow Zone restrictions: "Close 919 acres of the 1,459 acre Lower Crab Creek Arm Management Area (Yellow Zone) to motor vehicle travel and ORV use year-round. Maintain as seasonally open (July 1 to October 1) 540 acres of the 1,459 acre Yellow Zone."

The vegetation components in the seasonally open portion of the 1,459-acre Yellow Zone as compared to the permanently closed portion are:

Exposed and/or seasonally covered with water - 276 acres open; 479 closed
Grassland - 26 acres open; 48 acres closed
Riparian Forest - 3 acres open; 28 acres closed
Riparian Shrub - 187 acres open; 155 closed
Shrub Grass - 6 acres open; 32 acres closed
Shrubland - 18 acres open; 102 acres closed
Emergent Wetlands - 22 acres open; 75 acres closed

Letter 4

Comment 4A

Reclamation understands Ecology's role in the maintenance of water quality in Potholes Reservoir. Chapter 1 of the FEIS discusses the permitting requirements through Ecology. We intend to work with Grant County, WDFW, Parks, Ecology, and District 1 when applying pesticides, control of noxious and nuisance weeds, and mosquito larva and fish management (FEIS, 2-45).

Comment 4B

The WDFW and SPRC, as managing agencies at Potholes reservoir, develop integrated pest management strategies to control the spread of noxious weeds on the federal lands at the reservoir. While local Weed Control Boards may identify the presence of certain weeds on Reclamation held lands there is no authority for weed control by non-Federal agencies except where Reclamation has a contractual relationship such as the lease with the State of Washington. Reclamation and our managing agencies have a long history of cooperating and aggressively pursuing weed control. The RMP provides a mechanism for working cooperatively with agencies and state and local jurisdictional entities. Pages 2-6, 2-29, and 2-32 discuss the importance of control actions and the need for a collaborative effort.

Comment 4C

Thank you for pointing this out. We will correct the Management Action List to include current terrestrial and aquatic weed management activities.

Comment 4D

The RMP supports the use of biological controls whenever appropriate.

Comment 4E

As noted in Comment 4B, the lands within the study area are Federal lands and not subject to local law. However, it is Reclamation policy to pursue control of weeds on Reclamation held lands either through cooperation with local authorities, work by managing agencies, or expenditure of Federal funds.

Comment 4F

As Reclamation provides oversight for any control activities on Reclamation lands, the agency appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the permitting process for control measures initiated by the Grant County Mosquito Control District (GCMCD).

Comment 4G

In the document, we will change the statement to read, "If mosquito control is deemed necessary, biological control methods will be used whenever possible. In some circumstances, if biological controls fail or if human health is at risk, chemical controls would be allowed."

Comment 4H

We will add a brief paragraph that discusses unlisted weeds, such as *Phragmites australis*, that could become increasingly problematic.

Comment 4I

The integrated weed management program would promote the coordination of these efforts on federal, state, and private lands. The program currently requires lessee, licensee, or permittee to maintain a weed control program. It is understood that permits from Ecology are necessary when chemical pesticides are used, however Reclamation would still have oversight on Reclamation lands.

Comment 4J

See Comment 4B and 4C. Common reedgrass is the common name of *Phragmites australis*. We will edit vegetation references to include both scientific and common names.

Letter 5**Comment 5A**

The agency modified the Preferred Alternative on June 4, 2001 in relationship to the ORV Yellow Zone. Agreement from the user groups, agencies, and jurisdictional entities modified the Preferred Alternative to say, Close 919 acres of the 1,459-acre Lower Crab Creek Arm Management Area (Yellow Zone) to motor vehicle travel and ORV use year-round. Maintain as seasonally open (July 1 to October 1) 540 acres of the 1,459-acre Yellow Zone.@

Changes with regard to the habitat components did not constitute a substantive change in the impacts on vegetation for the Preferred Alternative. The implications left less acreage for habitat conservation and more for ORV use.

Implementation of the Preferred Alternative would facilitate greater coordination among the agencies= programs, plans, and actions as they apply to Reclamation lands in the RMP area. Monitoring activities to establish limits of acceptable change@ will identify necessary modifications to better meet the overall goals for all the resources in Potholes Reservoir.

Comment 5B

The proposed no-wake areas were dropped from detailed analysis in the RMP because the jurisdiction for this decision is the counties - not the Bureau. Grant County authorizes the establishment and enforcement of no-wake boundaries.

Comment 5C

The statement regarding hunting on Reclamation lands is now listed under the actions common to all alternatives.

Comment 5D

The "no shooting zones" at the Watchable Wildlife sites will be clarified in the FEIS to coincide with the primary hunting season.

Comment 5E

Monitoring of changes in grazing permits and relationship to proliferation of weeds would indicate a need for change. The RMP will have flexibility for making management changes based on these monitoring results.

Comment 5F

This paragraph is directed at working cooperatively with the Weed Control Board in identifying and prioritizing areas for control. These areas would generally be those areas that would dominate and degrade high priority fish and wildlife habitat. The list of species of concern statement on page 2-6 has been deleted.

Comment 5G

Table 2-1 has been changed in the FEIS from "prohibit" to "restrict" public access.

Comment 5H

That addition of seasonal restrictions has been incorporated into the text where appropriate.

Comment 5I

The year of review for the MOU with the mosquito district has been changed to 2002.

Comment 5J

The interpretive walkways portion of this statement has been deleted.

Comment 5K

The areas would still be open to camping. The signs would be used as more of an education tool. If it is found this purpose is not being met because of maintenance problems, other solutions could be implemented through the RMP.

Comment 5L

Reclamation considered the importance of this monitoring task but understands that it would be subject to budget restraints.

Letter 6

Comment 6A

The FEIS analyzes the potential impacts of the RMP. While we acknowledge the past actions that have contributed to the existing condition, it is the intent of this assessment to evaluate the impacts of the Resource Management Plan that includes the management for control of mosquitoes and the impacts of that management on the reservoir. It is that action which is within the scope of the environmental justice assessment.

Comment 6B

Grant County Mosquito Control District (GCMCD) would update the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to reflect changes in resource needs, which includes mosquito control technologies. Please refer to page 2-32 of the FEIS.

Comment 6C

See comment 6B. The updated MOU would provide a mechanism for input into the implementation strategy for mosquito and pest control. The GCMCD would take the lead in the formulation of this strategy. Based on information gathered through monitoring activities, GCMCD would determine the appropriate type and amount of specific applications to be implemented.

Comments 6D

It was an oversight on our part not to have contacted the District directly for information on its mandates and operations.

Letter 7

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 8

The ESA consultation and coordination for this EIS did not reveal Caspian tern predation of Columbia River salmonid smolts as an issue to be addressed in the Potholes RMP. However, Reclamation supports ongoing Caspian tern predation studies in the Priest Rapids complex. If predation from nesting Potholes colonies is concluded to impact Columbia River salmonid smolts, Reclamation will coordinate with the appropriate agencies and adjust the RMP accordingly.

Letter 9

Comment 9A

In addition to the countywide economic data gathered by Grant County, URS conducted an informal phone sample of service stations, motorcycle and ORV dealers, and other local retailers. This sample indicated that most retailers did not consider the partial restriction of the Yellow Zone to non-motorized vehicles to be a significant threat to local business.

Comment 9B

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Comment 9C

NEPA requires the disclosure of potential impacts to resources from proposed actions in the identified RMP alternatives. The FEIS meets those requirements for the identified RMP alternatives. The EIS scoping process provided opportunities for stakeholders, such as Grant County and local municipalities, to identify issues to be addressed in the document. This process has satisfied NEPA requirements and will be continued to a conclusion that provides sound management of Potholes' unique resources.

Letter 10

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 11

Comment 11A

Agency studies have shown that ORV trails have replaced an estimated 37 acres of shrubland, riparian shrub, and emergent wetland since the inception of the Yellow Zone, lowering habitat quality in the area. Studies also note an increased presence of invasive weeds including noxious species.

Comment 11B

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 12

Comment 12A

The Preferred Alternative balances recreation uses with habitat protection within the study area. Proposed restrictions to motorized vehicles is minimal, particularly in comparison to the benefits of these restrictions upon sensitive habitat areas and overall resource quality.

Comment 12B

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 13

Comment 13A

Throughout the RMP/EIS process, Reclamation solicited and received vigorous input from organizations and individuals who live near or recreate in Reclamation lands at Potholes Reservoir. 117 individual letters and thousands of form letters were received with regard to the EIS alone indicating a successful public outreach. In response to the public comment, Reclamation modified the Preferred Alternative (Alternative B) to maintain 540 acres of the Yellow Zone as seasonally open to motor vehicles. The remaining acreage would be closed year-round to motor vehicles. Please refer to Letter 3 for a full description of the modified proposed action. This change both protects the most sensitive habitat areas during critical seasons and provides motorized access to the reservoir during peak recreation use.

Comment 13B

Reclamation develops RMPs for all land, water, and resources under its jurisdiction under Title 28 of Public Law 102-575. The RMP identifies goals and objectives for resource management, land and resource patterns, and explains policies and actions to be implemented during the 10-year life of the plan. The RMP identifies and provides recreation opportunities and resource protection on Reclamation land. Potholes Reservoir currently is operated without the guidance of a RMP. Therefore, Reclamation is preparing a RMP for Reclamation administered lands and water in the area.

Several entities, under contractual agreement with Reclamation, have management responsibilities in the area. The management decisions in the RMP will be for Reclamation lands only and will meet contractual agreements with other managing entities, such as the Grant County Sheriff's Department, the WDFW, and the State Parks and Recreation Commission (SPRC).

Comment 13C

Public participation is a critical element of the RMP process. Throughout the development of the Potholes RMP, Reclamation held public meetings locally and in the Seattle area. The purpose of these meetings was to identify public concerns and desires for Reclamation lands, to answer questions regarding proposed actions, and to keep the public up-to-date on the development of

the RMP. In addition to public meetings, information was gathered through public workshops, on-site surveys, on-line comment sheets, and interviews with key opinion leaders, local chambers of commerce, environmental organizations, business owners, and sportsman clubs.

Agency input was incorporated through the organization of the Land Management Agency (LMA) work group and the Ad Hoc work group. The LMA consisted of the WDFW, SPRC, and the Grant County Sheriff's Office. The Ad Hoc work group consisted of representatives from key interest groups, jurisdictions, and agencies with a significant interest in the future management of the RMP study area. Working with Reclamation, these advisory groups assured that managing agencies and a cross-section of federal, tribal, and local agencies were represented in the development of RMP alternatives. Please refer to Chapter Five of the FEIS for complete documentation of Public Involvement and Agency Consultation.

Letter 14

Comment 14A

Comment noted. Although we do not find the statement quoted in the comment on the page number given, we will clarify where needed in the document that comments on the DEIS are welcomed from all American citizens with an interest in the undertaking.

Comment 14B

The EIS must address Executive Order 13007 in general terms. That is, we must show we followed the Executive Order's requirements to consult and attempt to identify areas considered culturally sensitive, even sacred, so that the sites will not be impacted during implementation of the undertaking. Executive Order 13007, as well as other laws, does not permit the publication of the location of sacred sites. Tribes are free not to disclose sites subject to Executive Order 13007 if they deem it inappropriate to do so.

Comment 14C

Cultural Resource surveys done to satisfy Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are, by law, reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer as well as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, or equivalent, within Tribal governments.

Comment 14D

We believe the comment refers to another undertaking by a different agency.

Comment 14E

Where necessary to be specific regarding indigenous inhabitants, we will name them. However, we are only presenting in Chapter 1 the issues and concerns raised during scoping and not attempting to present management direction.

Comment 14F

The comment is noted. Like the response given above, Chapter 1 is only presenting in general terms the issues and concerns raised during scoping sessions.

Comment 14G

Law enforcement in the Potholes area is legally required to follow off-reservation policies and procedures.

Comment 14H

Decisions on transferring administration of Federal land to Washington State Parks will take treaty rights into account.

Comment 14I

The record shows that invitations to the meetings of the Ad Hoc Agency work group were made to several departments within the Yakama Nation.

Comment 14J

Reclamation respects confidentiality of consultation meetings. Information obtained from those meetings is shared if permission is given from all parties to do so.

Letter 15**Comment 15A**

Thank you for your continued interest in Potholes Reservoir. The Preferred Alternative advocates funding natural resource analysis on a regular basis to determine land use impacts in sensitive areas such as the Dunes/Sand Dunes area. Please refer to page 2-44. The WDFW reserves the right to limit access to specific islands in Dunes/Sand Dunes Area during critical wildlife breeding/nesting periods.

While the Preferred Alternative does not prescribe watercraft restrictions in all sensitive areas, seasonal restriction in to low speed/minimum wake operation in the Upper West Arm and the Upper Crab Creek Arm, and the complete prohibition of floating devices in the North Potholes Reserve would enhance breeding and nesting success for grebes and colonial nesting birds. This Alternative also provides the most recreation access with the least potential damage.

Comment 15B

The Upper West Arm and Upper Crab Creek would be designated as Habitat Management Areas (HMA). The FEIS will reflect your recommendation to change the term "prohibit" to "restrict" in the discussions of proposed actions in the HMA's. Please refer to Comment 15A.

Comment 15C

Thank you for your suggestion.

Comment 15D

Under the preferred alternative, approximately one mile of the eastern end of Powerline Road would remain open year-round for ORV and other motor vehicular use. The RMP would allow Reclamation to close or implement other control measures as would be necessary to achieve management objectives. Please refer to page 2-51 of the FEIS.

Letter 16

Comment 16A

The goals and objectives for the future management of Potholes were developed in consultation with the public, interest groups, interested organizations, government agencies, and interested tribes. These goals and objectives became the agencies' "desired future condition" for Potholes Reservoir. This process is described in Appendix A.

Comment 16B

The FEIS discusses the numerous studies that are the basis of the actions in the RMP. Indirect impacts from changes in the ORV area were assessed and are presented in Chapter 4, pages 4-20, 4-25, 4-29, 4-32, and 4-33. While enhanced habitat could result in increased predation of some species, these areas would also protect spawning and nesting areas from human disturbance resulting in a net benefit for ecosystem health. Page 3-83 describes the significance of the ORV area and its relationship to the recreation experience. Pages 3-95 and 3-96 discuss the social and economic implications of the area in terms of the values people place on the environment and the resources within that environment.

Comment 16C

Thank you for pointing out the map error. It has been corrected for the FEIS.

Comment 16D

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3. A suitability analysis was conducted in Potholes to establish areas that would have the greatest potential for habitat restoration or maintenance while considering recreational, visitor, and support needs. Changes in management of the area, based on the suitability analysis would benefit habitat for aquatic, terrestrial, and botanical species while providing for increased recreation opportunities, visitor facilities, and support services.

Comment 16E

Please refer to Comment 16B.

Letter 17

Thank you for your review. Please refer to Letter 15.

Letter 18

Comment 18A

The FEIS addresses the impacts of ORVs and the Preferred Alternative provides elements that minimize these impacts while meeting recreational demands (FEIS page 2-50 through 2-53, and Chapter 4).

Comment 18B

The FEIS addresses the impacts of PWCs and the Preferred Alternative provides elements that minimize these impacts while meeting recreational demands (FEIS page 2-54 through 2-55, and Chapter 4).

Comments 18C

Each of the proposed action alternatives will develop monitoring and action plans to comply with the Clean Water Act. Please refer to Table 2-1 on page 2-9. Alternative B proposes seasonal and permanent closure of sensitive areas to dispersed camping.

Comment 18D

Reclamation oversees any insect control activities on Reclamation lands and will supply comments and approve final recommendations based on a cooperative approach to the problems.

Letter 19

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3. In 1998 and 1999, a Potholes Reservoir Visitor Profile and Recreational Use Study was conducted to gather information about visitor use and satisfaction, crowding, conflicts, recreation needs, as well as demographic and economic data pertinent to the study area. The survey team conducted day surveys during seven different sampling periods: three peak holidays (Labor Day 1998, Memorial Day 1999, and the 4th of July, 1999), the opening day of waterfowl hunting season (October 10, 1999), two non-peak summer weekday periods (June 9-10, 1999 and July 28-29, 1999), and a non peak summer weekend (August 13-14, 1999).

Letter 20

Thank you for your review of the DEIS. Volunteerism and partnerships are important to the implementation of the RMP. We appreciate the willingness of the Central Basin Audubon Society to participate in this effort.

Letter 21**Comment 21A**

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified restrictions to motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Comment 21B

The document presents the analysis of habitat loss from ORV use, camping, unauthorized trails, and other recreation activities in Appendix E and G, in addition to the Vegetation, Recreation, and Wildlife sections of Chapters 3 and 4.

Comment 21C

Please refer to Comment 16B.

Letter 22

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions to motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 23

Please refer to Comments 16B -16E.

Letter 24**Comment 24A**

The Power Line road is open by proxy during the period of time that the Yellow Zone is open. Forced entry has not been a problem in the past.

Comment 24B

The ORV area is managed as a unit, therefore Reclamation land and the contiguous Grant County property is addressed in the document.

Comment 24C

Access to these turnouts would be on the Sand Dunes Road, which would allow for motorized access. Recreation access from the turnouts to the designated camping areas would be limited to foot traffic, administrative, and emergency use.

Comment 24D

Appendix E refers to the maps used in the historic vs. existing vegetation analysis. Appendix E does not depend on these maps for clarification of content rather it summarizes the results of the analysis using the maps.

Comment 24E

Table 3.4-3 is not a summary of all the cover types within each area but only the dominant vegetation. The lesser cover types occurring within the study area are not represented (pg 3-24).

Comment 24F

- Irrigation circles outside of the project area are not critical to the analysis and demonstrate only the surrounding use.
- The leased area is accurately represented on the map. Its administration is at the discretion of Grant County.
- This area is outside of Reclamation lands.

Comment 24G

The results of the survey are calculated responses to specific questions. Many of the people surveyed were ORV users who ranked camping and fishing as their primary recreational choice on the survey sheets. The survey was conducted throughout the project area.

Comment 24H

This receptacle is outside the project area.

Comment 24I

During the flights on Labor Day weekend no ORV use was recorded.

Comment 24J

Acres of exposed cover types are not synonymous with acres of trails.

Comment 24K

Thank you for your suggestion.

Letter 25**Comment 25A**

The vegetation studies presented in the FEIS recognize the diversity of habitat areas throughout Potholes. Please refer to page 3-29 and to Appendix E.

Comment 25B

Please note the comparison of the Desert Habitat Management Unit (HMU) and the Potholes study areas in Appendix E, page E-10, that describes the differences between historically grazed land that had been used for ORV riding, and that land which had not.

Comment 25C

Please refer to Comment 9A.

Comment 25D

The recreation survey provides a reliable count for ORV users. The survey showed that many ORV users consider other activities to be primary during their visit.

Comment 25E

Please refer to Letter 19. If north end users were present during the sampling period, they were given an opportunity to provide information.

Comment 25F

Please refer to Comment 9A.

Comment 25G

Thank you for your continued interest in this process and for your suggestions. Please note that in response to public comment, Reclamation has modified restrictions to motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 26**Comment 26A**

The HEP study refers to historic land use patterns and reservoir impacts to habitat in the Yellow Zone. However, recreation use, particularly ORV use, has negatively impacted habitat quality at Potholes. Please refer to page E-13.

Comment 26B

Under Alternatives B and D, the O'Sullivan Site-North would be developed as a unit of Potholes State Park. The potential impacts of this proposed action are discussed in Chapter 4.

Comment 26C

Please refer to the vegetation analysis in Chapter 3, beginning on page 3-18, and the proposed noxious weed control program outlined in Table 2.1, pages 27-2 to 27-8.

Comment 26D

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions to motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Comment 26E

Please refer to Letter 19 regarding the Recreation Survey.

Comment 26F

Please refer to Section 1.3 for a description of the RMP process and public involvement.

Comment 26G

Thank you for your comments.

Letter 27**Comment 27A**

The notice of public hearing for the Potholes DEIS was announced in three papers within the Moses Lake area one week prior to the hearing: The Wenatchee World, Wenatchee, Washington; Grant County Journal, Ephrata, Washington; and the Columbia Basin Herald, Moses Lake, Washington. Due to the interest in the project individual letters were sent to over 250 people. A system error occurred when collating first and last names while sorting by type.

Approximately 45 addresses were addressed incorrectly and of those 28 were not delivered. Reclamation extended the 60-day comment period an additional 60 days to accommodate these people.

Comment 27B

URS is a third party consulting firm hired to complete the analysis for Reclamation. The National Environmental Policy Act requires Reclamation to complete a study of this nature. The Preferred Alternative is the plan selected by Reclamation as best meeting the goals and objectives for resource management at Potholes Reservoir. It is an alternative that many parties, including the Ad Hoc, Land Agency, and public groups, have provided input.

Letter 28

Comment 28A

Please refer to Comment 16B.

Comment 28B

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions to motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 29

Comment 29A

Reclamation extended the deadline for comments from March 27, 2001 to May 28, 2001.

Comment 29B

Thank you for your comments. The Recreation Surveys were completed in 1998 and 1999.

Comment 29C

Please refer to Comment 11A.

Comment 29D

The public participation process is outlined in Comment 13C.

Letter 30

Comment 30A

The document describes, in Appendices E and G as well as under the sections on Vegetation, Recreation, and Wildlife in Chapters 3 and 4, the analysis of habitat loss resulting from ORV use, camping, roads, and other occurrences.

Comment 30B

While enhanced habitat could result in increased predation of some species, these areas would also protect spawning and nesting areas from human disturbance, resulting in a net benefit for ecosystem health.

Comment 30C

Alternative B better meets the needs of diverse recreation uses, including non-motorized uses. Please note that in response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions to motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone in the Preferred Alternative. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 31**Comment 31A**

Please refer to Letter 19 regarding the Recreation Survey.

Comment 31B

Indirect impacts from changes in the ORV area were assessed and are presented in Chapter 4: pages 4-20, 4-25, 4-29, 4-32, and 4-33.

Comment 31C

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions to motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Comment 31D

Damage in the Yellow Zone is outlined in Chapter 3 and 4 of the FEIS and in Appendices E and G. It is this analysis that supports the partial closure. Annual monitoring of impacts associated with motorized vehicular use would be used to determine "Limits of Acceptable Change". If these limits were exceeded, the WDFW and Reclamation would explore and prescribe alternative management (FEIS page 2-48).

Comment 31E

Although no specific ORV groups are listed in Appendix C several individuals who are active in these organizations received copies of the DEIS. They received these copies based on the method of response (individually) to the initial scoping of the purpose and need.

Letter 32**Comment 32A**

In 1998 and 1999, a "Potholes Reservoir Visitor Profile and Recreational Use Study" was conducted to gather information about visitor use and satisfaction, crowding, conflicts, recreation needs, as well as demographic and economic data pertinent to the study area. The survey team conducted day surveys during seven different sampling periods: three peak holidays (Labor Day 1998, Memorial Day 1999, and the 4th July, 1999), the opening day of waterfowl hunting season

(October 10, 1999), two non-peak summer weekday periods (June 9-10, 1999 and July 28-29, 1999), and a non-peak summer weekend (August 13-14, 1999).

During the sampling periods, survey team members hand-distributed numbered packets consisting of a cover letter, survey form, and postage-paid return envelope to visitors at recreation sites and accessible shoreline locations in the study area. A small percentage of the surveys were attached to windshields of vehicles found at various parking and boat launch areas. The survey team distributed approximately 1,959 surveys over the 1998/1999 peak recreation season. The recreation survey indicated that most of the Potholes Reservoir respondents were from the Puget Sound area, with 31 percent from the Seattle area. Fourteen percent of the respondents were locals from Grant County, 13 percent were from the Tacoma area, and 10 percent were from the Everett area.

In addition to the Recreation Survey, Reclamation distributed 2,500 questionnaires to recreation users, including ORV riders in Grant County. ORV riders were active and vocal participants at public meetings in Moses Lake. Reclamation has encouraged and been responsive to input from all sectors of the recreation community.

Comment 32B

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions to motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 33

Comment 33A

The EIS process identified issues and concerns regarding management of Potholes Reservoir. Habitat and species protection, in addition to air and water quality, were among the key issues addressed in the FEIS document. Please refer to pages 1-3 to 1-11. The Habitat Enhancement Program (HEP) analysis assessed potential impacts from proposed actions to each resource.

Comment 33B

Air quality within the Potholes area is generally good and is in compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Analysis conducted for the FEIS indicates air pollution associated with each proposed alternative would be temporary, localized and of a small magnitude, with no net adverse affect on air quality or ambient values in the area. Please refer to page 4-2.

Comment 33C

One purpose of the RMP is to better coordinate management resources in the area. This will streamline agency responsibilities allowing more effective law enforcement within the area.

Comment 33D

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified the Preferred Alternative (Alternative B) to maintain 540 acres of the Yellow Zone as seasonally open to motor vehicles. The remaining acreage would be closed year-round to motor vehicles. (Please refer to Letter 3 for a

full description of the modified proposed action.) This modification both protects the most sensitive habitat areas during critical seasons and provides motorized access to the reservoir during peak recreation use. Reclamation reserves the right to control access if unacceptable levels of degradation become apparent.

Letter 34

Comment 34A

Thank you for your comments. The Preferred Alternative, B, makes recommendations to protect sensitive areas during nesting season. This alternative allows for changes in the plan to protect habitat areas if environmental degradation becomes apparent. Please refer to Comment 15A.

Comment 34B

The Preferred Alternative reduces grazing in the area and provides for a balance of resource objectives in Potholes Reservoir. However WDFW believes that grazing must be retained as an optional management tool in the area. The potential impacts of over-grazing are noted.

Comment 34C

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified restrictions to motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Comment 34D

Under the preferred alternative, approximately one mile of the eastern end of Powerline Road would remain open year-round for ORV and other motor vehicular use. The RMP would allow management to close or implement other control measures as deemed necessary to achieve management objectives. Please refer to page 2-51 of the FEIS.

Letter 35

Comment 35A

Reclamation appreciates the stewardship work undertaken by various groups who enjoy lands recreation activities in the Potholes area. The RMP is designed to help the Federal, State, and local agencies that manage these lands to better coordinate their activities. This will facilitate more efficient monitoring of resources and better control of damage or disturbance to habitat areas.

Comment 35B

Under each of the action alternatives, dikes would be monitored, maintained, and potentially enhanced.

Comment 35C

The term "carp-free" describes a management goal for ponds. Carp are inevitably introduced to these waters through a variety of ways, including use as bait by fishermen and possibly by being

dropped by predatory birds, as you describe. In the management of "carp-free" ponds, the limited use of rotenone is allowed to kill the carp then game fish are re-stocked.

Comment 35D

No new ponds are proposed in any alternative. Wildlife managers understand dissolved oxygen content as a water quality factor for game fish habitat.

Comment 35E

Your observations regarding the area's overall erosion potential are consistent with the RMP studies noted on page 3-5 of the DEIS. Actions under each of the action alternatives would decrease erosion overall due to the reduction of surface disturbing activities within specific areas. Page 2-41 of the DEIS discusses all of the proposed erosion inventory and control plans. However, as you note, not all sources of soil erosion could be eliminated under any alternative.

Comment 35F

Actions proposed within the Preferred Alternative such as the designation of HMAs, the implementation of low speed/minimum wake areas, the limitation of dispersed camping, and the formation of the Oversight Panel on water quality would be expected to improve the fisheries in Potholes Reservoir.

Comment 35G

The RMP cites an increase in predatory bird populations at Potholes (3-44). While larger nesting areas could result in increased fry predation, these areas would also protect spawning areas from human disturbance, resulting in a net benefit for fish populations.

Comment 35H

In order to improve fisheries, management activities in the Preferred Alternative include designated HMA and low speed/minimum wake areas, limited dispersed camping, enhanced diking systems, and an Oversight Panel on water quality.

Comment 35I

The GCMCD manages spraying in the RMP area under the oversight of Reclamation. The adoption of the RMP will facilitate discussion between managing agencies in order to balance resource management within the area (e.g. disease control versus fishery decline).

Comment 35J

The Preferred Alternative would increase cover for fish through land use designation, reduction of bank erosion, education, and cooperative programs. If these methods are found, through the monitoring process, not to meet the objectives of the RMP, then other methods could be implemented.

Comment 35K

This project would not be within the scope of the RMP at this time.

Comment 35L

If tree damage by beavers becomes a problem in the Lind Coulee Arm, then appropriate steps will be taken to protect young trees.

Comment 35M

The DEIS (page 3-22) states that "Russian Olive is...increasing component of the overstory...its propensity to take over native habitat is not considered desirable since native willow communities provide habitat for a greater diversity...." The DEIS is not suggesting elimination; however, it does suggest monitoring and management of habitat distribution.

Letter 36**Comment 36A**

The GCMCD, through coordination with Reclamation, would be responsible for timing and areas of avoidance. We would suggest contacting that department regarding this type of request.

Comment 36B

The DEIS notes that motorized watercraft access is concentrated, especially during high water, in the West Arm, Job Corps, and Crab Creek Arm (3.5.3). Seasonal restriction on motorized watercraft in HMAs would lessen impacts to nesting and breeding wildlife.

Comment 36C

Thank you for your comment. Grant County would be the appropriate agency to discuss changes as you propose for the Grant County ORV Park.

Letter 37**Comment 37A**

The Preferred Alternative addresses and balances needs for all who recreate in the area. Reclamation believes that seasonal restrictions on roads in the E. Lind Coulee area are needed to protect wildlife values.

Comment 37B

The Preferred Alternative does not prohibit motorized watercraft during this period, it only restricts watercraft to low speed/minimum wake, which should not affect fishing or fishing access. Prohibiting access to these areas was not the intent of the speed restriction.

Comment 37C

Pages 2-42 through 2-45 discuss elements of the Preferred Alternative designed to enhance fisheries and riparian habitat. In addition, user groups who have been proactive in the past have brought together the resources and planning to initiate programs for fisheries in other areas. Reclamation would be supportive of this type of cooperative venture as it has been in the past.

Letter 38

Actions in the Preferred Alternative are consistent with your suggestions, including the protection of sensitive wildlife areas, and the implementation of Watchable Wildlife areas. The overall goal of the RMP is to provide a variety of recreation activities, habitat protection and enhancement, and operational functions of the reservoir. The adoption of the plan will help ensure that Potholes maintains its unique habitat qualities.

Letter 39

Thank you for your comments. Please refer to Letter 38.

Letter 40

Comment 40A

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions to motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Comment 40B

Please refer to Comment 9A.

Letters 41-45

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions to motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 46

Comment 46A

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified restrictions to motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Comment 46B

Reclamation appreciates the work of ORV riders to maintain the area. Your recommendations are a reflection of your commitment to responsible ORV use.

Comment 46C

Please refer to the comments under Letter 6.

Letter 47

Comment 47A

Reclamation believes that the preferred alternative has been developed to support a wide variety of cultural desires throughout the Potholes area. Among these is support for resource uses such as hunting and fishing for everyone regardless of cultural background.

Comment 47B

Page 3-83 of the FEIS discusses the significance of ORV area and its relationship to the recreation experience. Pages 3-95 and 3-96 discuss the social and economic implications of the area in terms of the values people place on the environment and the individual resources within that environment.

Letter 48

Comment 48A

Please refer to Comment 13C for a clarification of the public participation process.

Comment 48B

Please note that the recommendations in the Preferred Alternative only limit motor vehicular access in the Yellow Zone. In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 49

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 50

Comment 50A

Reclamation extended the 60-day deadline for comments from March 27, 2001 to May 28, 2001.

Comment 50B

The document outlines, in Appendices E and G and in the Vegetation, Recreation, and Wildlife sections of Chapter 3 and 4, the analysis of habitat loss from ORV use, camping, roads, and other occurrences. This document also compares the alternatives based on differing levels of resources and land jurisdiction changes.

Letter 51

Thank you for your comments.

Letter 52

Thank you for your comments. One purpose of the RMP is to better coordinate management resources in the area. This will streamline agency responsibilities and promote more effective law enforcement within the area.

If the Preferred Alternative were chosen, the corresponding RMP would balance habitat protection and enhancement with increasing demand for a variety of recreation opportunities, visitor facilities, and support services. The Preferred Alternative allows for changes in the plan to protect resources if unacceptable levels of environmental degradation become apparent.

Letter 53

Comment 53A

Thank you for your observations. Use of Reclamation lands for dispersed camping will continue under the preferred alternative. The RMP identifies "Limits of Acceptable Change" for these areas. If damage were to become evident, Reclamation and our managing partners would make appropriate changes to public use in order to alleviate and correct disturbances in the area. The area you mention is managed by SPRC. Under the preferred alternative, that agency will more actively monitor the area, which should alleviate damage and disturbance in the area.

Comment 53B

The Coordination Act Report in Appendix G notes the presence of bald eagles in the area, particularly in N. Potholes Reserve and on Peninsula South.

Letter 54

Comment 54A

Implementation of the Preferred Alternative would facilitate greater coordination among the agencies' programs, plans, and actions as they apply to Reclamation lands in the RMP area. Monitoring activities to establish "Limits of Acceptable Change" will identify necessary modifications to better meet the overall goals for Potholes Reservoir.

Comment 54B

Closing of portions of the "Yellow Zone" and implementation of "no wake" areas are part of the Preferred Alternative.

Letter 55

Comment 55A

Thank you for your comments. While some of your suggestions are already identified in the Preferred Alternative, others were considered and are either part of another alternative or were eliminated from inclusion earlier in the process. A change was made in the FEIS as per your suggestion.

Comment 55B

Thank you for your review and the additional information.

Letter 56

Thank you for your suggestions. In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letters 57-62

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 63

Thank you for your review and comment. Many of your suggestions and comments are elements of the Preferred Alternative. Agency collaboration, public input, multiple funding sources, and voluntary actions to balance recreation uses with habitat protection within the study are some of the means of accomplishing the objectives of the Resource Management Plan.

Letter 64

Thank you for your review and suggestions. See Response to Letter 63.

Letter 65

Thank you for your review and comment. See Response to Letter 63.

Letter 66

Thank you for your review and comment. See Response to Letter 63.

Letter 67

Thank you for your review and comment. See Response to Letter 63.

Letter 68

Thank you for your suggestions. Please refer to the comments under Letter 15.

Letter 69

Thank you for your review and comment. See Response to Letter 63.

Letters 70-78

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 79

Thank you for your suggestions. Please refer to comments under Letter 6.

Letter 80

Thank you for your letter.

Letter 81

Comment 81A

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3. Please refer to Comment 13C for an outline of public participation activities. Chapter 5 of the FEIS documents the process more fully.

Comment 81B

Please refer to Comment 13B describing the need for a RMP and Comment 16B describing the basis for the actions in the ORV area.

Comment 81C

Please refer to comments under Letter 6 on mosquito control in the RMP area.

Letters 82-84

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 85

Comment 85A

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Comment 85B

Please refer to Comment 16B regarding ORV area habitat.

Letters 86-91

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 92

Comment 92A

Reclamation extended the review time. Please refer to Letter 29.

Comment 92B

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letters 93-110

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Letter 111

Thank you for your review and comment.

Letter 112

Thank you for your review and comment.

Letter 113

Thank you for your comments.

Letter 114

In addition to outlining natural resource management goals, the RMP defines the roles and responsibilities of managing agencies on Reclamation lands. The document thereby provides a structure for streamlining operations and more efficiently utilizing each agency's resources toward effective implementation of proposed plans.

Letter 115

Thank you for your comments.

Letter 116

The Preferred Alternative is designed to balance the management agencies' and public's long-term vision for Potholes Reservoir. Reclamation recognizes the need to protect the natural and cultural environment while supporting the overall recreational interests of visitors. Thank you for your review and for the additional information.

Letter 117

In response to public comment, Reclamation has modified proposed restrictions on motor vehicles in the Yellow Zone. Please refer to Letter 3.

Attachment A

List of Signatures from Duplicate Letters

Form Letter 19 - Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel-Drive Association

Sis Kalbeck
Cassandra McGelver
Gary Johnson
Kim Clyner
Jay Burkert
Todd Mills
Marty Tilford
Deborah A. Ellingsworth
Harvy Jester
Darcy D. Harding
Brock W. Parker
George Whynot
Walter O. Jessen
Bruce Horn
Ben Weller
Paula Freimuth
Tony Jessen
Howard Renn
Lester Sr. Hopper
Linda Jessen
Margaret Hopper
Richard A. Smith
Harlod, J Kalbeck
Michelle Clyner
Stephen Grittmann
Kathryn W. Jester

Form Letter 20

Jenny Andrejcik
Thomas Ager
Dr. James R. Gartrell
Dean Noland
Jo Johnson
Donald Graham
Diana Baumgardner
Henry & Sharon Wood
Theresa Mathis
Daniel Allen
Lottie Hemore
Nancy Hanson
Delores Ryan
Joan Lewis
M.J. Eldridge
Brenda Teals
Karen Paugh
Dorothy Carroll
Patricia Harrison
Robert & Donna Senn
M. Schiffer
Bill Meyers

Form Letter 21

Shawn Davis
Brian Naccarato
Gini Ryan
James Crooks
Amy Crooks
Michael E. Hurlbutt
Jo Lene Peren
Harry Wiebold
Micheal W. Isaacson
Melvin A. Kern
Brian Baker
Stephen Skaling
Troy R. Hallmore
Monte D. Moore
Kittie Marie McAlpin
Walter McAlpin
Cossy McGeener
Michael J. Donnelly
Timothy B. Ewert
Karl Blackman
Jesus R. Lobe
Armando Cantu
Brenda J. McMullen
Jonathan
Danny Stotts
Kalen Hollinberger
Vincent Lombarch
Dave Hollinberger
Dale Miner
Ethan R. Kast
Darrel J. Webb
Eric C. Swanson
John E. Watkins
Sonia Godinez
Mickie Stanley
Grant Baylis
Dean Cameron

Jason Bisquera
Earl Freimuth
Paula Freimuth
Steven L. Davies
Justin Wellman
Mick Fogg
Doug Low
Mark Johnson
Arron Hall
Richard Hair
Kelly Welsh
Robert McIntosh
Joyce Towns
Willis Muncey
Mike Lefave
Mike Workman
James Harrington
Bill Masne
Phil Glamp
Brian Morris
Julie Lombardi
Mike Bailey
Darrin Everard
Michael Muljat
Jerry Rich
James Hansen
Bill Skeen
Chris Personeit
Steve Ludden
Erika Winslett
Maureen Orndorff
Wayne McCoy
David Sams
Ron Farman
Skip Snyder
Darrin Reed
Shari Evans

Diana Palmer
Jacob Grismer
Mark Dorsey
Ken Buley
Gary Wilson
Kevin Hegwood
Lee Bifano
Mandy Walkup
Roger Hastings
Jack Hartman
Todd Voth
Dale Curtiss
Kate Thomas
Evert Kools
Dale Helton
Kurt Gillard
Angel Ryckman
Shane Glaesemann
Toni Glaesemann
Kristi Cafrferty
Heather Ramirez
Roy Holman
Darcy Meyette
John Thorn
Douglas Rosenberg
Roy Andrews
Tyler Reffett
Melissa Sanders
Dennis Davis
James Bowers
Ivan Tibbs
Kelly Pennel
Kelly Cheatwood
Don Montgomery
Anita Noel
Bob Morlan
Donna Gillard

Letter 21 (continued)

Melissa Sloan	David Allen	Jim Jensen
Brian Golob	Barbara Allen	Wade Keller
Dusty Gay	Robert Jr. Warter	Stephanie Fenner
James Drew	Nikki Lord	Gery Nordhagen
Mark Potter	Donna Miller	Dic Belisle
Ryan Anderson	Stacy Orozco	Mark Britting
Rey Rodriguez	Julie Garibay	Jon Lamore
Luis Farias	Larry Krueger	Andrew Whitelaw
Don Jr. Sell	Daryl Belfield	D. R. Lake
Heath Simonsen	Ron Davis	Dean Bloom
Larry Ferguson	Ronald Griffith	Gruelt Baker
David Westphalen	Daniel Kowl	Gerald Mylin
Timothy Lester	Michael Black	Dailene Nelson
Charles Griffin	Willie Garman	Eric Hibma
Linda Chambers	Mary Lou Newcomb	Jay Janssen
Millie Thompson	Mark Mager	Guslov Strahn
Tiffany Fletcher	Terry Cafferty	Greg Swardz
Charles Alaniz	Tana Cafferty	Ken Kayser
George Agbisit	Edith McDuffey	Don Buchner
Jeff Van Dylen	David McDuffey	Paul Scontring
Belinda Alaniz	Zane Newcomb	Lonny Donovan
John Foryan	Beau Montgomery	Scott Keith
Edd Ottmar	Richard Leishman	Tom Hollman
Thomas Dagnon	Thomas Coms	Dan Wright
Martin Genrich	Victor Schorr	Dan Starr
Dana Keele	Mike Dawson	Jamie Klemme
Susan Bowdle	David Anderson	Jason Meyer
Sally Walton	Bart Pemmant	Roland Serge
Jennifer Bacon	Alec Almquist	Randy Dobbins
Chad Redding	Doug Oban	Jessica Dobbins
Nancie Hibbs	Robert Brown	Bob Gray
Apryl Lutz	Edmund Lehmann	Tanner Ricdel
Chris Anayan	Larry Wotton	Angelo Welti
Sue Jones	Michael Hanson	Sue Laffin
Cale Merkley	Marco Perez	Ted Human
Corey Minatani	Jason Redrup	Gene Marigal
	Aaron Dicello	Tony Human

Letter 21 (continued)

Roy Kuhlmann	Holly Johnson	Brandon Baker
Jonathon Praskey	Brian Daniels	Steven Lopez
Randy Laffin	Ray Cervantes	Amanda Midspaugh
Jason Pachek	Tim Villarreal	Jennifer Foster
James Davis	Boe Clausen	Shannon Purdy
Jason Conover	Shawn Clousen	Lindsey Crothers
Gage Gile	Dale Mende	Jacob Bruce
Ryan Erickson	Ramon Diaz	Scott Henderson
Justin Madsen	Larry Reece	Pamela Matheson
Kyle Murphy	Douglas Howard	Katie Young
Rick Grunstad	Tonya Joe	Patrick Anderson
Ronald Osborn	Peter Staudenraus	Kurtis Koziol
Michael Gobelem	Mark Vandeveghe	Cody Archer
Loren Berryhyll	Lori Fronsman	A.J. Hara
Jeff Gabelein	Roland Frosman	Angel Hara
Mark Wernorsky	Susan Couture	Payton Laufer
Shelby Jenkins	Rodney Frosman	Kyle Peters
Steven Kanski	Mike Crater	Gary Ganiere
Michael Esposito	Angie Crater	Jay Johnson
Ronnie Cecil	Darrin Fronsan	Joe Chavez
Larry Duff	Ken Taylor	Zach Niessner
Brian Nelson	Justin Gnoinski	Brynne Grant
Chris Davidson	Marie Smail	Roman Bone
John Hulbert	Lance Smail	Brett Levandasky
Scott Pacuano	Becky Bertman	Scott Hyndman
Scott Griffith	Casey Sheaver	Jolan Martinel
Michele Rusher	Stephanie Rios	S. Garrett
Ole Madsen	Corrisa Howard	David Canta
Mike Fish	Estelle Harris	Cindy Phillips
J F Thomas	Alayna Lakamp	Tighe McHugh
Kimberly Sparks	Zebe Zantow	Brian Jr. Miller
Jacob Nagel	Jose	Jolinathan Toy
Brad Trumbull	Ken Hill	Weston Miller
Randy Patterson	John Overland	Steven Pollinghorn
Kelly Patterson	Sara Lee	Troy Swanson
Byron Peterson	Whitnei Siebel	Sharon Gregg
Keli Howard	Kenneth Schappell	Lary Thomas

Letter 21 (continued)

Marla Anderson	Donna Robinson	John Harren
Lyle Anderson	Jeff Van Nees	Justin Matzen
Larry Cavallero	John Hendrickson	Andrew Bates
Scott Gregg	Charlotte Albert	Jeff Parrish
Mary Anne Cavallero	Melissa Betes	Buck Varney
Ken Nave	Matt Helvy	Jason Seibert
Wilma Nave	John Michaels	Matt
Gail Anderson	Mike Callahan	Tyler Augustoon
George Frederick	Lisa Parrish	Antonio Escalera
Sheamus McQeade	Beatrice Bates	Mike Helvy
David Anderson	Jaime Wilmot	Katrina Pemrose
Lloyd Jr. White	Sabastin Betes	Cameron Varney
Jason Maddux	Shawn Prentice	Denise Varney
Jeremy Johnson	Nikki Penrose	April Pomeroy
Jason Moody	Jack Potts	Summer Conwell
Jeremy Gallaway	Raul Maraquin	Dan Miller
Heidi Palimer	Dennis Derbishire	Michelle Miller
Dawn Logsdon	Rick Penrose	James McEachran
Joe Rust	Sherllynn Penon	Micah Stusden
Brian Ripley	Mike Strickland	Ambel Dillman
Cliff Leach	Garrett Scniedner	Pedro Garcia
Brett Jensen	Mac Fernandez	Luis Rodriguez
Russel Brown	Martin Morino	Ryon Buyea
John Welliver	Greg Scniedner	Josh Westley
Rick Lamas	Chris Wyckoff	Teresa Westley
Craig Schmoll	Mark Walker	Randy Shukle
Isabel Rocha	Roy Ferguson	Chris Smith
Alvar Mendger	Calvin Didericksen	John Shukle
Oscar Gonzalez	Diane Juarez	Russ Hofstetter
Raul Cante	Shaun Oliver	Matthew Crow
Rick Padilla	Laura Cantwell	Charline Hofstetter
Dale Duncan	Stacy Grant	Andria Merrill
Daniel Loftus	Kraig Grant	Aaron Bishop
Lorena Ramirey	Boyd Grant	Randy Hofstetter
Mauricio Santoyo	Janelle Huseman	Amy Kinney
John Anderson	Marc Fernandez	David Prebiein
Amanda Robinson	Bret Starzman	Randy Radach

Letter 21 (continued)

Jay Haug	Donavan Nelson	Rachelle Powell
Maria Larioiz	Jeff Nelson	Tom Clark
John Johnson	Jennifer Adams	Eric King
Greg Peterson	Jose Mendosa	Mike Pearson
Shea Whitney	Patrisia Mendosa	Caroline Detiesla
Wes Hoffstot	Matt Hindberg	Joel King
Jason Redder	Lowell Thomson	Jayne Fleming
Clint Wolther	Stacey Elixman	Brian Bazarth
Roy Carroll	Jeremy Jones	Steve Selis
Sally Carroll	Shawn Smith	Larry Taylor
Dustin Kapalo	Troy Horton	Ruby Taylor
T Moore	Andy Rice	Randy Palmer
Michael Briley	Cord Easley	Michelle Witzler
Eliazar Jr. Moreno	Mat Hutchinson	A.D. Stromberg
Lynai Moore	Jason Smith	Benjamin Fairchild
Eloy Moreno	Terrance Jordon	Erik Hemans
Jessica Dearing	Andy Greene	Matt Walker
Brittany Dearing	Corey Boullionn	Jerry Griffin
Lisa Hooper	Jessica Williamson	Andy Millar
Larry Fronsman	Cody Wilson	Stacy Millar
Michael Valdez	Tara Webley	Steve Hampshire
John Thorn	Nick Cobb	Alvin Haug
Mark Newton	Cindi Workman	Zach Lewandowski
Teresa MacDonald	Josh Savage	Talisha Carter
Eric MacDonald	Shannon Savage	Jez Carter
Mason Utter	Shad Downing	Charlene Carter
Karl Blackman	Katherine Goodman	Shaun Fisk
Kevin Larsen	Lane Gventher	John Biley
Amanda Baty	Mariah Gventher	Kelley Wilson
Dustin Wolther	Kevin Miller	Jeanette Ferguson
Zach Thompson	Angela Gallaway	Daniel Ferguson
Holly Booth	Suzanne Vandevoghe	Misha Fisk
Brandon Bernard	Gary Ganuerie	Tason Archer
Jennifer Stadelman	Sonn Dorgan	Forrest Harrison
Ty Cobb	Sean Palmore	Steve Slack
Robert Hunter	Ed Kasakash	Justin Serrano
Robert Fortaw	Raymond Estrada	Mike Kernarn

Letter 21 (continued)

Marc Howard	Larry Bronson	Jeffery Dawson
Mark Hanna	Elizabeth Westenskow	Justin Hanson
Kimberly Hanna	Randy Westenskow	Collette Corbin
Kathy Francis	David West	Bryant Corbin
David West	Andy Ritchie	Jim Corbin
Kyle Nail	Del Green	Joe Wysock
Kyle Harkson	Timothy Seibel	Jeremy Lynn
Tim West	Benito Rodriguez	Josh Hollenbeck
Casey West	Bob Matter	Nate Miller
Leasa Simpson	Wayne Ostler	Adam Smith
Durwood Simpson	Larry Henke	Kirk Smith
Brian Lynch	Cora Bragg	Wayne Hahn
David Rhyne	Chris Oswalt	John Welliver
Ry Warden	Amanda Crothers	Scott Carson
Diane Lewis	Erin Jones	John Dorgan
Lance Pribyl	Terry Mandeville	Russell Dawns
Bryse Suens	Dave Davis	Adam Schwab
Ted Schuler	Joey Riordon	Jordy Call
Ray Jason	Jeremy Meling	Chris Goe
John Davidson	Troy Latham	Josh Johnson
Travis Wind	Lucky Smith	Joe Goe
Rose Foster	Jeremy Jensen	Candy MacDonald
Joe Erickson	Michelle Strange	Danny MacDonald
Sharon Grismer	Kevin Dunn	Ken Burton
Tara Thomas	Jordenn Barker	Chad Schwab
Israel Perez	Todd Barker	Ty Fletcher
Tony Cazares	Nathan Brown	Matt Motyka
Mark Goble	Travis Love	Brenda Motyka
Catherine Goble	Mike Rodak	Robert Fletcher
Eusenio Guerra	Ted Simpson	Kris Staker
Tom Guerra	Dave Johnston	Eric Staker
Mike Anderson	Christopher Copenhaver	William Parent
Cherri Roberts	Richard Simpson	Adam Jones
Al Bunkelman	Frank Koba	Casey Goetz
Linda Roscoe	Miyo Koba	Eric Jorgensen
Vicki Huss	Nick Brown	Louie James
James White	Timothy Allison	Travis Zimmerman

Letter 21 (continued)

Randy Hughes	Jill Pierce	Kathryn Jester
Gary McGuire	Shelly Pierce	Brock Parker
Arline McGuire	Joseph Pitner	Todd Mills
Darren Macomber	Eric Brittain	Harry Jester
David McGuire	Jeremy Hagen	Alex Smith
Jared McGuire	Joseph Brittain	Tony Jessen
James McGuire	David McPerson	Margaret Hopper
Christina Moore	Scott Dent	Lorraine Galloway
James Moore	Torre Treece	Lonnie Dillon
Kevin Mainus	Michael Mortimore	Richard Smith
Calvin Stevens	Louis Sikes	Harold Jr. Kalleck
Bruce Stevens	Liz McLaughlin	Linda Jessen
Richard Parker	Jared Mortimore	Ethel Harding
Paul Stevens	Patti Matheson	Tom Fisher
Brad Stevens	Jerry Red	Don Jensen
Caroline Haugen	Robert Sutton	Judy Madewell
Shelby Paddock	Richard Thorp	Ryan Ruble
Tiffany Jenkins	Cindy Thorp	Joe Tate
Theresa Jenkins	Jason Burlingame	Audrey Schutty
Marisa Dunn	Andy Thorp	Nick Albrandt
Tracy Alexander	Julio Aluniz	Mike Albrandt
Ron Hougen	Heath Lesser	Lee Erickson
Jason Jenkins	Wayne Craig	Betty Erickson
Dwayne Alexander	Matt Tngley	Wayne Erickson
Leland Callahan	Joseph Tingley	Wayne Osborn
Beverly Butler	Carol Tingley	Clay Wilson
James Perry	Joe Tingley	Rubin Pedroza
Curtis Butler	Candace Schreier	Robert Ogle
Bobby Butler	Candy Frison	Mary Jo Day
Beverly Gem-Sharon	Jeff Jacobson	Travis Laibl
Terri Case	Michelle Clymer	Hunter Steele
Terri Callahan	Sis Kalleck	Connie Clark
Noel Callahan	Paula Levine	Shad Weyer
Shawn Callahan	Darcy Harding	Norman Wilbur
Michelle Callahan	Karen Fisher	Bill Fielding
Sandy Kobles	Walter Jessen	Mathew Lusk
Mike Snyder	Marty Tilford	Tiburcio Villarreal

Letter 21 (continued)

Leon Watson	Robert Hudson	James Fox
Roman Traylor	Eugene Cobb	Eril Seward
Gary Christensen	John Calkins	Marc Jones
Doug Cantrell	Rochelle Lyon	Mark Haynes
Darwin Westphalen	Heather Bredkon	Michael Atwood
Jessica Westphalen	Jake Riley	Susan geBauer
Kevin Gummere	Cindy Riley	Daniel Smith
Kim Siegrist	Michael Knoblick	Harvey Brfandt
Christopher Funk	Duangsovranh	Bradley Dodd
C. Gummere	Singnakhone	Jeff Redfield
Steve Codomo	Linda Young	Joe Terrell
Shelly Taylor	Judith Goeman	Brian Miller
Steven TAYlor	Linda Ferguson	Rod Payne
Kimberly Codomo	Dangi Dixon	Jeffery Myles
Victor Kukrall	Clyde Thompson	Dennis Lamaack
Randy Riggs	Frederic Burns	Maloythong
Dustin Lyon	David Gaustad	Dervangphachanh
Vic Lyon	Patty Ann Holman	Christine Edwards
Dolores Lynds	Sharon Lewis	Randy Edwards
Robert Lynds	Paul Agnew	Larry Willis
Steve Vorgala	Chris Fredrickson	Jeffery Johnson
Lisa Beth Cooks	Patrick Brislawn	Jeffery Hammond
Jo Valentine	Barbara Gordon	Jeffery Carrow
Sabrina Nguyen	Mark Drummer	Darrin Sexton
Richard Openshaw	Jet Cantaloube	James West
Michele Miller	William Petitclerc	James Gentili
Keith Curtis	Jenny Miller	Jay Krier
Dale Sceeman	Robert Bolick	Bobby Fleming
Debbie Feller	Wesley Donahue	Mark Caniparol
John Scalpa	David Sprague	Chris Belleville
Mike Kristofferson	Randy Church	Leslie Badger
Brian Jr. Miller	Jeff Roberts	Alicia Hickey
Michelle Miller	Alan Borgan	Daniel Koch
Jerry Bourguignon	Dennis Jones	Ryan Sanshek
Dirk Heard	Michael Dean	Brandi Maxwell
Dennis Lavalley	Dave Sattler	Brian Earl
Eugene Collins	John Warren	Lance Zinsins

Letter 21 (continued)

Nick Johns	Dashiell Hei	Amanda VanWyhe
Lisa Raucci	Jessi Dornam	Danielle Brittain
Kenny Blan	Anna Mannke	Urie Short
Brandon Traveek	Sara Tody	Jennifer Hamilton
Junius Benlow	Trebor Gillin	Jack Stessing
Travis Vestal	Beth Kessler	Lauren Bailley
Tina Brown	Breanne Roche	Dennis Bermann
Kathleen Harrison	Stephanie Martin	Joseph Cruz
Larry Pogue	Chris Stiber	Eric Schuchman
Thomas Jones	Jill Murray	Tyler Connelly
Whitney Reid	Colleen Petree	Jessica Esneiman
Brian Morrow	Aubrey Norling	Jodie Walters
Kirk Brooks	Marcie McCoy	Stephanie Esneiman
Jayne Oswald	Andrew Goodman	Jamie Walters
Rennick Oxford	Nolan Culver	Sara VanValKeinberg
Amy Bingham	Greig Hicks	Michaela Schroeter
Matt Pogue	Andrea McDonald	April Eaton
Mark Williamson	Katie Sinnema	Samantha Lucas
Diana Alamos	Jason Porcello	Bonnie Walters
Monica Alamos	B rett Racine	Joanna Spokus
Victoria Bittle	Kirby Thompson	Shastina Anderson
Barbara Vasquez	Curtis Thompson	Byran Keising
Renee Detrick	Devon Varmega	Lance Hayashi
Jill Colee	Kyle Leonard	Shelly Sanders
Wesley Parker	Eric Sadlier	Troy McLanaham
Judy Kuben	Joe Decker	Tammy Strong
Paul Pogue	Kyle Pierce	Robert Lange
Maura Peterson	Nathan Sanden	Elizabeth Lange
Belinda Rhines	Dean Wess	Cheryl Taylor
Irvin Howe	Hannah Serns	Andy Parker
Devin Howe	Kevin Wilson	Justin McNutt
Dean Curtis	Cody Thompson	Ron Olsen
Scott Sunwold	Taena Kich	Chris Davidson
Timothy Shaurin	Doreen DeBorg	James Boylon
Ryan Collins	Nick Rought	Susan Boylon
Lin Schumacher	Billy English	Warren Sole
Eli Hetchkiss	Ash Testerman	Richard Webb

Letter 21 (continued)

Kevin Quinn	Trenton Claybergq	Dustin Echols
Chris Lange	Bethany Carlson	Karrissa Councill
David O'Konek	Mike Carlson	Justin Vanhulle
Chad Mathis	Barbara Smith	Jeramia Vanhulle
Edwin Mathis	Joshua Tedescki	Ray Merrel
Greg Saranto	Mike Smith	Karen Luemmen
Lars Hansen	Karl Majerle	Corrine Luemmen
Christopher Brown	Jay Ann Kendall	Billy Robertson
James Moody	Brianne Sprinkle	Lisa Russell
Joseph Weis	Sarah Merrell	Steve Russell
Douglas Kelnter	Jimmy Austin	Robert Russell
Don Dowes	William Ostiguy	Jamie Walters
Anthony Jenner	Kevin Kendall	Jared Goodrow
Ray Lindgren	Heather Erstrom	Cindy Russell
Andrew Brown	Fred McGee	Cavin McGee
Luke Majerle	Justin Byrd	Fallon Luemmen
Tim Majerle	Shane Rootmeyer	Brett Boehm
Jon Bartly	James Waters	Charlie Goodrow
William Dill	Tye McGee	Derek Carroll
Ryan Dill	DJ Harding	Dale Block
Lucas Whelan	Mark Harding	Danny Russell
Brad Hinsman	Jay Schipherd	Joseph Klynman
Matt Oxford	Chris Keele	Kevin Howater
Jay Schuyleman	Jessy Byrd	Tom Oliver
Klint Kendall	Mike Thomas	Justin Jalakas
Kyle Kendall	Danny Herran	Dereck Carroll
Pam Schuyleman	Susan Sterbank	Sada Joe
Jerry Shepherd	Mike Russell	Michelle Joe
Steve Dunlap	Dave Furgason	Micheal McKinney
Ken Lechner	Danny Burget	Angel McKinney
Calvin Roetmeyer	Curtis Schreiber	Don Morrison
Jay Schuyleman	Danny Herman	Cammy Zabala
Tommy Harding	Mike Cochran	Angelina Walkins
Adam Majerle	John Moser	Summer Hall
Alison Majerle	Shane Raburn	Lori Kinzel
Katie Wiseman	Jimmy Graham	Muhie Jaderlund
Melvin Roelemeyer	Gil Hammond	Joshua Shelton

Letter 21 (continued)

Robert Wiltfong	Ross Lingenfelde	Linn Day
Kevin Behn	Julian Charez	Peter Orr
LA Thomas	Alex Smith	James Deckworth
Stephen Martin	Katrina Harnden	Susan Bradshaw
Amy Martin	Doug Sheppard	Bill Wade
Lisa Sheppard	Tracy Hayden	Mike Freeman
Barbara Lowry	Dusty Plough	Shane Hersley
Charles Fish	Paul Grose	Bill Larose
Rebekah LeBarron	Helen Pilling	Shane Freeman
Mike Sheppard	Laura Gray	Richard Pratt
Bud Quinman	Marci Hansen	Caroline Pratt
Kurt Colley	Don Emgh	William Eggleston
Jennifer Colley	Marten Grose	Eric Pratt
Pam Brumley	Lowell Isom	Justin Pierce
Sandra Morrow	Barb Honey	Shanna Collins
Marci Jenkins	Michael Silva	Kathy Collins
Judith Hudgins	Richard Aldrich	Roy Dickmeyer
Donald Hurgins	Reva Vanerstrom	Denise Dickmeyer
Catherine Hopkins	Garrett Rapor	Daniel Collins
Mark Janke	Heather West	Mike Collins
Jayson Darby	Daniel Buchyanan	Dawn Hannan
Josh Oliphant	Mike Gage	Freed Swarnes
Matt Janke	Steve Pyron	Wayne Ellis
Jamie Condon	Lisa Serles	Catherine Ellis
David Dodson	Ronald Whitmarsh	Paul Carey
Jeff Janke	William Whitmarsh	Micah Susterich
Lee Ann Park	Becky Boober	Jeramee Green
William Quiltamenock	William Banks	Christopher Corbett
Darci Tuttle	Bob Gray	Jim Epoch
Ryon Roeder	James Croppi	Kaniala Nachu
Douglas Miller	John Kyle	Chris Glenn
Russell Sage	Adam Malone	A R Compton
Harold Hedges	Clint Messenger	Jonathan Brower
Sue Smith	Dave Gonzales	Jeremy Little
Kevin Witte	Michael Burns	Shane Yunker
Jason McCormick	Sean Moodie	Jeffery Hamre
Roy Stortz	Thomas Ford	Carl Montoya

Letter 21 (continued)

Bridget Tanguay	Ashley Miller	Andrea Wagner
John Holdren	Krissy Wallingford	Chris Paxton
Mark Essex	Joel Kissinger	Brian Miner
Cindy Archer	Ashley Guimond	Emily Duesternoeft
Darrel Lopeman	Julie Sautter	Chris Bogert
Dave Schille	Mike Balcom	Jeremy Dugger
Jeanette DeGrand	Nikko Gibson	Jonathan Herling
Tammy Bronson	Ryan Peterson	Scott Butler
Brandon Burton	Jesse Peterson	Brian Westby
Andy Shepparz	Adam Mayberry	Wendy Pechia
Woody Rowley	Orlando Orozeo	Todd Westber
Dick Hansen	Michael Larsen	Carley Hogenhout
Daniel Lokamp	AL Robertson	Michael Murray
Don Archer	Sean Payne	Jason Heath
Lana Nelson	Nick Maddux	Ken Bennett
Cobie Hanson	Janelle Piraino	Keith Hogenhout
Shauna Bronson	Kara Rookey	David Hogenhout
Robert Otto	Jeramie Shoda	Nolan Taber
Sharon Douglass	Katie Younker	Catherine Zanck
Delores Lopeman	Nick Blake	Ben Vanter
Greg Hansen	Bobby Hanson	Josh Henderson
Andy Otto	Tiffany Skierka	Josh Sutherland
Dylan Otto	Allison Salvie	September Hardie
Lynn Otto	Richard Dearment	Joel Christiansen
Brad Basso	Byron Gah	Mike Thorpe
Barry Bokma	Chris Blocker	David Taylor
Rhoan Ashby	Dennis Rae	Mathew Lopez
Rebecca Martinez	Ashley Schindler	Brittany Schaefer
Cole Shiflett	Lindsey House	Ali Russell
Cynthia Grover	Maria Berube	Chelsea Reynolds
Jessica Fuhrman	Jessica Henson	Lindsey Steblay
Jack Cheung	Angela Meacham	Steve Llewellyn
Ben Stansbury	Terra Henderson	Robert Wilson
Travis Pope	Brandy Wentz	Mark Davidow
Megan Anderberg	Debbie Dander	Dean Westley
Travis Grow	Penny Thayer	Karen Westlby
Heather Weaver	Dan Simons	Emily Hiller

Letter 21 (continued)

Lucas Obrien
Andrea Plell
Levi McCormick
Joey North
Daniel Turner
Rocky Visintuiner
Joelene Smith
Nick Squires
Darin Stauffer
Todd Slatter
Joe Schwindt
Kevin Herbst
Heather Burkhardt
William Pope
Clint Poppens
Jeff Brewer
Nicole Ton
Igor Shabunks
Jared Waters
Don Bobel
George Harding
Tory Solders
Jill Solders
Deborah Quade
Amanda Roseleip
Bruce Baker
Jewel Baker
Summer Jackson
Nathan Walker
Sally Dubee
Heidi Miner
Nicholas Ota
Megan Hopkins
Carol Snyder
Tim Hawkins
Greg Daily
Heather Spackman

Meagan Nelson
Tylor Stolp
Derek Delbridge
Shane March
Vic Holman
Ryan Landcaster
Jardan Smith
John Wuipkey
Zack Herberholz
Thomas Green
Mike Schramm
Larry Herberholz
Sheri Herberholz
Shaina White
Rob Maguire
Scott Buck
Gen Moria
Richard Ascol
Patricia Ascol
Peggy Myers
Mark Whited
George Welton
Todd Wagner
Rick Wells
Dale Kruse
Kenneth Verhaag
Jamie Anderson
Sheri Morris
Chris Morris
C. Cappaert
Roy Dickmeyer
Carl Hiebur
Brian Robertson
Bryan Herr
James Foreman
Arthur Cook
Janice Laurent

Dennis Thomas
George Bronsam
Jerry Smith
Bill Doran
Scott Griffith
Ryon Figgins
Randy Chandler
Karl Leifsson
Derek DeBardi
Salvatore Albanese
Deborah Bigelow
Alex Wing
Kenneth Hopkins
Glen Williams
Mathew Glugia
Scott Stacy
Les Leonard
Helen Willis
John Sattler
Marlene Wilson
Francine Boedeker
William Boedeker
Tod Peterson
Philip Nigh
Carolyn Boyden
Craig Boyden
Travis Boyden
Robert Brown
Fred Young
Dean Anderson
Carrie Blair
John Blair
Brad Rich
Dan Sivertsen
Philip Hupf
Janice Young
Christine Rich

Letter 21 (continued)

Geri Atkinson	Linda Liska	Perfecto Basto
Michael Leibold	Gary Bredl	Tim Hilt
Jason Soloda	Jeff Petty	Rung Roeuth
Kate Koenig	Richard Bales	Robert Theis
Gerone Hughes	Timothy Grover	Rcik Fisher
Jolene Hughes	Jeffery Goodrich	James Dunn
Rick Purefoy	Steve Angearn	Bill Haley
Michayla Panchut	Mike Flake	Craig Ratleiffe
Jesse George	Jimmie Butler	Johnnie Mobley
Kristina Blankenship	Lonnie Thomas	Joel Smiley
Thomas Bayer	David Welk	Paul Wilson
Jonna Paul	Jack Kuusisto	Tom Ingebretson
Jesse Paul	David Ross	Gary Bovey
Keri Paul	Daniel Hooyboer	Peggy McCaslin
Corina Wallin	Mariea Cole	David McCaslin
Lisa Dodd	Rhonda Coleman	Ralph Bernard
Shelley Bustad	Mark Mills	Robert Hutchison
Charles Holmes	David Henry	William Smith
Kim Axtman	Gene DeBortole	Vale Murray
Randall Kozitka	David Ekund	Nils Lazich
Timothy Allen	Leo Huerta	Jacoba Widener
Scott Jones	Roger Clayton	Stephen Wright
Steve Nyberg	Jon Salas	Gregory Britt
Ronnie Baker	Bridget Beckmyer	Joseph Laughlin
Harry Anderson	Cary Constantine	Marc Belson
James Cardin	Jory Gaete	Randy Walbrun
Robert Gursley	Richard Todd	John Moore
Miles Hart	Jon Lawlwy	Eugene Cauchen
Mark Watland	Daniel Coleman	Craig LeRoy
Steve Ferderer	Craig Huse	Scott Atkinson
Larry Conley	Randy Colombi	Mark Severson
Ronnie Hadley	Paul Valrada	Arthur Sanchez
Robert Roberts	Randy Harper	Randolph Pace
Charles Austin	Clay Defold	Mark Rulifson
Thomas Suderman	Dan DelNero	Paul Kelly
Christopher Carr	Robert Senser	Ben Baker
Charles Ross	Rich Frarere	Brian Howey

Letter 21 (continued)

Tim Engquist	Christopher Jones	Dianne Briggs
Les Butler	Kalani Riveira	Donald Douglas
James Grill	David Karber	David Swarey
Fred Chadwick	Donald Jr. Matson	Robert Beibal
Glen Samuelson	Tom Venable	Joe Russell
Kyle Duncan	Steven Wahlstrom	Frank Brazik
Tom Bengen	Craig	Rock Talbot
Kenneth Toone	Nick Jellick	Lee Herzog
Frank Pray	Donald Hardin	Jeffrey Thomas
Shaun Deisher	Jeff Kelsey	Robert Ledill
Joseph Schittitt	Susan Kelly	Jerry Buss
John Everett	James Meyer	Brett Draysse
Connie Ramey	Douglas Montgomery	Cary Raino
Barry Seibert	Martin Tucker	Ronald Cook
Don Cravens	Joe Fleming	Robert Hall
J Stilts	Dean Gerow	Gregory Thomas
Maureen Porter	Phillip Henry	Howard Jr. Wigand
Dean Justice	David Sow	Scott Johnson
Curtis Snyder	Gary Hamacher	Johan Davis
David Wear	Brent Roberts	Mark Harris
Ed Venezia	Tamara Collins	Rhonda Brough
Loren Boehm	Mark Braun	Neal McGrath
Stephanie Stewart	Jack McDonald	Dan Boland
Jeff Groves	James Everwood	Lindsey Finley
Michael Anderson	Gary Crawford	Roman Silva
Jim Wonson	William Brandon	Randy Whitford
Robert Burks	Mitchell Methuen	Rachelle Aldrich
Eric Ford	Tony Ahrus	Kaysie Vanwyk
Dusty Tucker	Willie McNeal	Toni Carey
Tobias Calvert	Daniel Jensen	Monica Crosby
Fred Businello	Ricky Giles	Jason Gerard
Naomi Leon	Tony Compean	Russell Smith
Johnnie Fain	Phillip Hillhouse	John Perkins
Robert Botteron	Constantine Macnis	Joe Blair
Claude Smith	Vicki Wilhelmsen	Bill Bleam
Craig Mark	William Willard	Chris Smith
Mark Belcher	Robert Hafford	Pat Landis
	Diane Godfrey	Tyler Blair

Letter 21 (continued)

Steve Wilson	Jeff Neils	Rod Virden
Travis Turner	Joel Boyd	Marcia Hill
Steven Storbeck	Daniel Dalton	Jason Hill
Kyle Erickson	Steve Seibel	George Snider
Craig Smith	Jose Serrano	Rob Clabo
Dan Kron	Rolando Jr. Accuedo	Harold Stern
Mark Brennis	Jerome VanLaethem	Ken Douglas
Jerry Winkley	Jack Walters	Brandon Douglas
Kelly Wemp	Barry Hatt	Rachelle Ivan
Correy Wemp	Saul Salinas	Casey Hitchcock
Bonnie Wemp	Lane Drafts	Jeff Holland
Sean Cochran	Jason Pixton	Don Holter
Melissa Colee	David Cotsford	Justin Holland
Chester Southwood	Steve Boyd	George Holland
George Ellsworth	Steven Jones	Jason Rathbone
Christopher Weber	Phillip Coats	Mark Gilbert
Dave Smouse	Josh Schinler	Jeremy Burnham
Danteali Delarosa	Phillip Mandeville	Dwaine Kultgen
John Martinez	Jeff Miller	Marnie Boyer
Vendell Stidom	Lisa Mandeville	Michael Boyer
Jim Milligan	Loretta Hitchcock	Casey Haworth
Teresa Maine	Steve Hitchcock	Mercedes Forest
Adrian Escamilla	Jeff Hitchcock	Margaret Zarate
Bruce Albert	Jason Pickering	Frank Mendez
Dave Detrollo	Kellie Krebs	Angel Loreto
Andrew Hill	Shannon Simmons	Darrel Draper
David Rangel	Billy Neaterr	Ben Longoria
Shawn Anderson	Bradley Kline	Lupe Vasquez
Barry Wemp	Lorie Kline	Sharla Jones
Rick Glead	Tracie Burnett	Robert Sweigert
Fred Villarreal	Gene Pratt	Tracy Elsberg
Rosendo Alvarado	Charmaine Kline	Sharon Kelley
Michael Adamos	Tim Maddy	Gerauld Stephens
Paul Dufault	Steve Walraven	Biff Bailey
Wesley Coburn	Loys Walraven	Kimberly Buche
Jaime Garza	Mike Elmer	Justin Martinez
Miloda Garza	Ken Wemp	Shelly Davis
	Jerry Anderson	Scott Hieln

Letter 21 (continued)

Marc Truman	Tim McGowan	Mary Pat Holdren
George Jeffries	Terry Hare	Austin Bennett
Kenneth Jeffries	Jacob Buche	Ted Vanderford
BJ Hedrick	Christopher Howard	Charles Swezey
Rick Collins	Danny Aswell	Shawn Swezey
Ryan Harris	Stephanie Shelton	Aaron Ingalls
Gabriel Medina	Elvin Schadler	Anthony Bellanca
Dustin Wright	Peggy Soden	Jay Hoskin
Joseph Valdez	Tammy Walters	John Bentz
James Burrill	Julie Darby	Donald Wanless
Phillip Beardreau	Josh Oliphant	Joe Kinsella
Joel Jertzell	Jason Darby	John McBride
Richard Cooper	Robert Ishibashi	Kip Rondoif
James LeBow	Jerry Darby	Vance Swezey
Robert Tyerith	Jim Hanson	Shannon Clendensen
Erica Watterson	Calvin Mofford	Allan Weidenheimer
Jeanette Boden	Nikosi Lattimore	Brandon LaFleur
Fernando Grimaldo	David Roberson	Shane Moriany
Eugene Reyna	Jeremy Boehm	Timothy Hodder
Andrew Hall	Osbaldo Cerrillo	Chris Hurney
Nora Shipman	Michael Appolonia	Todd Nestegard
Phil Glass	Boe Adolphsen	Steven Barry
Hunter Steele	Ryan Harrison	Billy Lewis
Taylor Adams	Don Hanning	John Apling
Donna Boughter	Antonio Vargas	Daniel Carter
Loren Lord	William Purcell	Jay Roberts
Allen Boughter	Jason Johnston	Robin Bare
Michelle Carr	Lenin Richardo	Josh Bare
Terri Gilbert	Francisco Quintana	Bill Harshbarger
Sharon Whitaker	Laurissa Perez	Justin Markus
Jeff Boday	Janet Luczak	Robert Hagerty
Myra Buche	Mary White	Anthony Olson
Jack Stevens	Josh Russell	Curtis Swezey
Blaine Lesser	Candy Corey	Gary Swezey
David Adame	Lisa Salinas	Everett Cole
Tim Mundekes	Dorene Bendixon	Stan Cafferty
Christopher Simonds	Keith Swezey	Jeff Stanbridge

Letter 21 (continued)

Brian Olson	Tarra Roybal	Kevin Raeckhan
Steve Martinez	Don Ross	Josh Wilharm
Joe Mitchell	Sarah Johanson	Tyler Winterton
John Bishop	Jeremy Modewell	Joshua Jackson
Loren Dorrah	Ashley Cope	Matt Stucky
Eric Martinez	Amanda Smith	Amanda Kim
Allan Self	Paul Johnson	Jessica Seltz
Curt Tavenner	Charlie Shumaker	Matt Brandon
Travis Ripley	Jon Peterson	Chris Neslon
David Fairchild	Jordan Cruz	Mikaela Uralle
Ryan Fairchild	Amena Hiate	Josh Stine
Harold Hardyk	Albert Piking	Derrek Yates
Harold Hardyk	Stacy Persinger	Daniel Tebow
Riley Hall	Ryo Shido	Julie Duchow
Tracy Wemp	Brenton Carroll	Agustine Simenez
J Clendenen	Winter Rhyne	Kristin Johnson
Thomas Pryor	Maria Moreno	Dileia Senato
Shannon Croushorn	Joseph Johnson	Vianey Medel
Craig Combelic	Marisol Rojar	Ernesto Interlanie
Jeff Faulkes	Isabel Alvarado	Steven Herman
Frank Holdren	Samuel Castro	Derrik Maddy
Russell Harreson	Cale Russell	Casey Corral
Rob Terry	Fraw Christensen	Daissey Garcia
Del Wade	Steven Gonzales	Mathew Crowell
Zach Terry	Tyler Steffens	Tara DeBeaumont
Chris Reed	Desiree Stone	Amanda Villa
Kathryn Jester	Lacey Grove	Francisco Quintana
Rick Ettenhofer	Ashley Calhoun	Miguel Cedillo
Orien Rusk	Magali Quiroz	Katie Bashaw
Suzette Brownfield	Cynthia Martinez	Salvador Rivera
Gayle Piude	Adrienne Nyberg	Natalie Sharpe
Stefan Tafnis	Sabrina Baumgartner	Brian Phillips
Brent Adams	Tyson Jackson	Antonio Cedillo
Steve Illman	Dustin Ellis	Dale Olmos
Kevin Walkup	Mason Beeman	James Walker
Ted Simpson	Josh Leafdale	Leslie Acosta
Nathan Massart	Alycia Malecha	David Bab

Letter 21 (continued)

Stephen Ricard	Kristin Bjork	Jason Guilherme
Nathan Church	Jeff Nickell	Nichole Baker
Sean Debaux	Kyle Chamberlain	Brian Reed
Jeremy Dreher	Jordan Tebow	Marisol Salmeron
Luiz Silva	Jon Cooper	Isreal Martinez
Josh Goicechea	Joey Morcada	Jason Duvall
Ciji Hintz	Brett Strickland	Maricela Salmeron
Shaun Radech	Billy Purcell	Mario Uribe
Randy Radech	Sara Moore	Carolyn Johnson
Lucas Riddle	Rodney Wright	Partia DeNiro
Mike Couporeale	Brandon Otto	Tim Edwards
Zach Tabor	Jason McLean	Anne Owensbey
Travis Love	Breanne Spangler	Sharde Medrano
Jennifer Daniels	Trey Lusk	Jured Bronson
Julie Lawson	Scot Hutton	Zane Berg
Adam DeLatorre	Shad Carlile	Nick Brown
Jared Wilkinson	Brent Torrence	B J Russell
Steve Garza	Cameron Haynes	Taik Morad
Rachelle Helgeson	Jamie Shryack	Cassing Doremus
Tuan Craddock	Marli Archer	Lydia Palmer
Jameson Kersey	David Daily	Michael Fruen
Jessica Rios	Joseph Vazquez	Robert Bragg
Chris Buchmann	Willy Ecret	Morgan Derington
Casey Armfield	Zach Dumpier	Chadd Rogers
Trent Leach	Boh Dumpier	Zach Rhyne
Aracelia Angel	Ross Woodard	Tracy Cobb
Mario Villasenor	Jeff Sparks	Tony Burnett
Andrew Morris	Quintin Justice	Skyler Simpson
Anthony Metzker	Brooke Caldwell	David Thompson
Janet McEachran	Steffanie Scanian	Myshel Dalrymple
Marti Jones	Lori Deleon	Domingo Valenzuela
Jessica Wilson	Maria Bustos	Thomas Clarece
Tabiyha Martin	Daniel Lybbert	Heather Otto
Jason Varnell	Nathan Edmonds	Cody Hall
Matt Mallery	Richard Guerrere	Britanee Vasquez
Joe Nickell	Dustin Bard	Trevor Weger
Jake Fisher	Jeremy Brown	Tyler McIntyre

Letter 21 (continued)

Scott Dirlbliss	Ray Oesly	Sarah Belisle
Josie Kinney	Elias Lampes	Steven Tippetts
Max Munseti	Trish Ridgway	Amanda McAnulty
Triston Gibson	Brandi Heupel	Richard Yurien
Ryan Phelps	Brian Perry	Allen Moeller
Adam Phelps	Jeremy Koblinsky	Stephanie Sieloff
Richard Guerra	Eric Prentize	Gary Spencer
Diadre Flaugh	Anna Rocha	Floyd McAnulty
Elizabeth Hesse	Nick Ray	Rodney Wright
Patrick Breitenstein	Charles Copeland	Suzanne Huntley
Linda Hindman	Julie B ramlett	Damien Baker
Sherri Hausknecht	John Quinliuan	Nathan Crothers
Anna Clement	Brandon Holland	Marty Miller
Craig Homer	Jayne Heupel	Lynsi Dunn
Cynthia McKinzy	Patrick Ridgway	Cody Spicer
Ron Scott	Thomas Redwine	Tessa Marble
Angela Smith	Kathi Uhlinger	Beau Rustman
Darrel Jensen	Nicholas Hansen	Raven Kerr
Angela Anderson	Brooke Henry	Richard Reeves
Nate Wilson	Lorana Penee	Daniel Blades
Ada Clark	Amanda Jennings	Larry Clarke
Darren Gilland	Kyle Finney	Chris Rutland
Josh Laramore	Eric Sims	Justin MdKinney
Mathew Rydran	Lindsey Holland	Michael Numkena
Amanda Valenzuela	Robin Ball	Teresa Ridgway
David Griffith	Casey Uela	Elizabeth Rodak
Jon Versteey	Mathew Ball	Christopher Shay
Luke Stansbury	Florence Starkweather	Troy White
Lameca Walton	Jordan Hubbard	Stacey Perry
Brian Crothers	Derek Ball	Justin Parr
Catherine Reed	Jennifer Lovell	Bridgette Henry
Ted Gentry	Viola Johnston	Jolynn Weathers
Richard Roberts	Adrienne Horgaard	Jim Rustman
Keith Ford	Travis Frazier	Jackie Baxter
Breanne Lefave	Nicole Juergens	Robin Gallaway
Samantha Lopez	Tony Copeland	Guy Gallaway
Kelly Hendrickson	Rickie Gardner	Sherreian Thedorff

Letter 21 (continued)

Rachelle Thedorff	Juan Pena	Brett Murray
Julie Belisle	Eric Parks	James Robinson
Skipton Belisle	Edwards Pena	Bridgette Everett
Bruce Carroll	Brick Barchers	Brandee Boudreau
Kristi Carroll	Sharon Phelps	Josh Leafdale
Jalene Oberloh	Nancy Frederick	Jonathan Jones
Eloy Sanchez	Crystal King	Kristin Johnson
Roger Matt	Nicole Cruz	Amanda Hedrick
Robert Ruff	Nee Pena	Jessica Dearing
Rickie Ruff	Mike Gugliamalli	Kasi Noff
Michael Sanchez	Abi Galicia	Traci Strawn
Karin Johnson	Teak McKinney	Jason Christensen
Jeremy Caudle	Mike Roelle	Brandon Strait
Shanna Phelps	Tim Schinke	Jesse Crowse
Tyler Caudle	Kira Palmer	Juan Cardona
Robert Thedorff	Raelynn Riley	Trey Goodwin
Stanley Phelps	Julie Miller	Vicky Nailor
Natalie Thomas	Brandon Burgess	Jackie Cragar
Melissa Tamburello	Jay Macomber	Becky Flaugh
Nick Hansen	Byron Cusimano	Alice Moinette
Elaina Arnold	Mike Coles	Neil McDowall
Laura Riley	Tristan Oliver	Louie Martinez
Kelly Mueller	Michelle Knied	Elsa Cardona
Tracy Smith	April Broadnax	Jessie Rodriguez
Jeremiah Leigh	Sarah Wilson	Vanity Hectar
Duane Strong	Elton Miller	Molessa Blanco
Jonathan Shipley	Leo Cohenover	Michael Gonzalez
Chris Bramlett	Kirsten Geiger	J Powell
David Shipley	Robert Luczdki	Eric Bruegeman
Brett Erickson	L Anderson	Gordon Guenthe
Logan Dunn	Jennifer Leigh	Jonathan Steeher
Emmett Soden	Derrik Darling	Blanca Walle
Jon White	Darrin Bacon	James Davis
Daminon Garcia	Keith Bilodeau	Walter Yanez
J M Kagele	Jasmine Ball	William Yanez
Ronald Winland	Audrey Walten	Brenda Gonzalez
Katie Young	Amber Howard	Samuel Salmeron

Letter 21 (continued)

Kalvin Stoker	Chad Hall	Danylou Leyva
Aurora Avila	Varon Larson	Scott Benreth
Luis Flores	Julie Sackmann	Melissa Carroll
Sandra Garcia	William Hall	Melissa McDowall
Sulema Soto	Chad Littler	Cody Drummond
Rigoberto Flores	Chris Lamb	Jamie Mattozzi
Edgar Corral	Heather Holman	Justin Ogden-Huhe
Celia Segura	Bert Jr. Holman	Mike Bragg
Laura Fuentes	Cory Foster	Tommy Jr. Quarles
Lorena Avila	Daniel Johnson	Denae Berreth
Tiffany Arguelles	Jason DeBeaumont	Esteban Jr. Maldonado
Kirsten Carlson	Nathan Brown	Jeramiah Strzelczyk
Mayra Deleon	Chris Yearout	Thomas Wright
Luis Portillo	Brandy McDowall	Kolby Secrist
Luis Silva	Zach Otto	Samantha Sutter
Mike Maier	Zack Castro	Scott Shelton
Dustin Roth	Garrett Curtis	Clarence Ames
Tawny Swanson	Chris Matoo	George Mindus
Kari Lawson	Jeff Hodges	Eric Johnson
Robert Jolstead	Brynn Roth	Refujio Correa
Brenda Everett	Bobby Scanlan	Jesus Garcia
Emily Wadsworth	Eriz Varnell	Lisa Chase
Cassandra Swisker	Andy Larsen	Sara Esquivel
Brian Carroll	Jeremiah Solarez	Troy Pearl
Matthew Otto	Josh Wilsey	Jason Hooper
Holly Mansfield	Paul Babak	Scott Hottell
Byron Albrandt	Ray Sally	Don Miller
Brian Hughes	Donovan Smith	Matt Solverson
Sam Rathbone	Glea Whisle	Mark Hunter
Kristina Newton	Hattie Collins	John Brady
Gabriel Oronic	Chris Grammer	AL Bradley
Kyle Stephens	Mark Shelton	James Johnson
Stephanie Mack	Nick Gulfano	Robert Findlay
Isaac Earl	Codi Loeffler	Douglas Costello
Shane Palmer	Ruth Sharp	Michael Bowthuis
Garrett Westerman	Rachelle Sanchez	Dave Wesselman
Justin McDowall	Michael Clark	Jerry Ross

Letter 21 (continued)

Aloa Durheim	Rick Scarpelli	Mike Adkins
Greg Bushnell	Steve Tobler	Steve Chappell
O F Herde	Jason Inks	Jon Sorensen
Michael Sorensen	Todd Stone	Tom Hendrickson
Ken Hoffman	Gerald Fraley	Paul Lamb
Richard LaShaw	Ryan Collins	Corey Carpenter
Roy Peterson	Timothy Pope	Ben Ukl
Russell Clage	Randy Bronkhorst	Jim Base
Michael McCarty	Barry Smith	Greg Foryan
Larry Collins	Chuck Bennett	John Malcoh
Larry Prophet	Melinda Watson	Bruce Germain
Daniel Harlow	Kathy DeLaMatter	Dick Hemore
Robert Bogart	James Miller	Jon Shimon
Jeffrey Bennett	Brim Anderson	Matt Jr. Davis
Chuck Cotton	Michael Hollenbeck	Brian MeLoche
Sam Carchaine	Ronald Lyons	Jerry McCormick
Joe Moline	Neal Adams	Dennis Reynolds
Timothy Mitchell	Jeff King	Chuck Brumet
Eric Ariad	Karen Hoffman	Brian Godder
Scott Peery	Kevin Schambron	Jason Warwick
Bob Paulus	Mike Quane	Nathan Whitney
Brian Reynold	Shane Lewis	James Mackey
Mark Brosam	Andrey Demchuk	Patrick Phillips
Keith Watson	Mario Gonzalez	Brian Perry
Ken Reiber	Jon Hester	Ty Scarlett
David Shuism	William Neatrow	William Harmening
Bob Frase	Terry Razey	Charles Stewart
Jeff Prather	Warren Cramer	D Edmunds
Greg Thompson	Carl Boorman	John Sorenson
Danny Gillion	Steve Sheppard	Ernest Allen
Robert Reed	Don Archer	Joe Bushy
Raymond Howard	Bruce VanZandt	Ronald Shine
Lynnette Mann	Dale Dean	Ken MacForlane
Daniel Ramarui	Darin Milliken	Dan Hinkle
Bill Hilsabeck	Lyle Labes	Steve Garratt
James Rader	Joe Bollman	Kevin McMahon
Trampas Torson	Thomas McDonald	Larry Naccarato

Letter 21 (continued)

Keith Degenstein	Gary Ackley	Estevan Rodriguez
Randy Achziger	MY Wormley	Roman Rodriguez
Rod Pettit	Brad Erickson	Joe Smith
Richard Bache	Brian Kisler	Tara Erickson
Scott Gage	Stan Doane	Nathan Crowell
Calvin Redway	Richard McUne	Frank King
Michael McGill	Mike Orser	Douglas Eaton
Dale Aune	Loran Hendrickson	Thresa Reed
Ernie Woolsey	Andrea Peterson	Dennis Kauffman
Sharon Reynolds	Kenneth Biem	Rowena Kauffman
Kent Jenkins	Beverly Brosam	Sharlene Kauffman
Brian Printer	William Brosam	Mark Ferrera
Ken Ganiere	Lance Cornell	Brian Ellenson
Randy Reynolds	Jimmy Schimke	Mason Utler
Johnny Bacer	Tim Klein	Lisa Millard
Randy McCarty	Shannon Herd	Irene Brosmore
Sally Eagle	Cindi Workman	Zane Bator
Melissa Poshethwaite	Josh Savage	Dan Bator
David Durfee	Jacqueline Erickson	Kenneth
Brandon Boorman	Jeff Neils	Shawn Dover
Lee Gerber	Roberto Hernandez	Alan Morrison
Jay Thompson	Daniel Campos	Tod McDanel
John Couture	Danielle Erickson	Matt Janke
Sandy Brosam	Creed Ricks	Mark Janke
Elmo Fronsman	Derek Holbert	Josh Rocha
Ron Roberts	Sean Simpson	Juan Barrientoz
Louis Andrew	Luisa Manzo	Enrich Ostendorf
Joe Davis	Brett Palmason	David Bailard
Larry Williams	Esmeralda Manzo	Wayne Degenstein
Ivan Kruger	Darin Palmerton	Joan Evans
Dwight Smith	Jesus Manzo	Richard Robertson
Tim Bernard	Daryl Patterson	Jerry Shannon
Jay Lindquist	Vic Jansen	Tina Neumann
Richard Collier	Mark Janke	Carol Dingwell
Donna Sindelar	Rich Engh	Dana Dingwell
Lopaka Steele	Gerald Janke	Tamara Baldwin
Julianne Brown	Isaac Alaniz	David Baldwin

Letter 21 (continued)

Richard Gummere	Allen Anderson	Moreen Hamlen
Byran Gray	Steve Trickler	Dawn Gardner
Patrick Gray	Carl Cline	Craig Thiel
Lauri Gray	Brian Schade	Alphonso Rease
Kimberly Pierce	Gina Bill	Jessica Benson
Jama Burkhart	Kathleen Ferster	Shurleen Lyons
Tom Youngman	Kathi Ankley	Rick Grosch
George Rodriguez	John Wilson	MW Francis
William Bryant	Michael Craig	Jesse Adams
Rick Randall	Richard Hansen	Jim Ward
Terry Mellor	Debra Glazier	Jeff Goodsall
Willie Miller	Douglas Malcolm	Christopher Putnam
Charles Followwill	Ken Booher	Marie Apodaca
Robert Marshal	William Toth	Michael Calvert
Brian King	Dan Roden	Dale Hauck
John Brown	Ken Roberts	Mike Everts
John Herrmann	Annette Moles	Linda Bomd
Robert Jarvis	Joe Buchmann	Jamie Murbach
Terry Kidder	Cynthia Farquhar	Pamela Murray
Jool DaLosta	Larry Gruber	Brenda Hood
Paul Villella	Dan Dingwell	Susan Hopper
Steve Patterson	Robert Dingwall	Patricia Hall
Don Jewell	Ron Purvis	Tracy Aconson
Rob Wallen	Richard Hauf	Rick Whitney
James Booker	Terry Bowers	Nancy Voss
Stoy Dabbs	Brian Greger	Charles Hansen
Holly Jackson	Randy Barber	Daniel Mann
Larry Webb	George Hippe	Michael Stolz
Linda Francis	Kay Baston	Michael Kelly
Gary Stolz	Joseph Lockridge	Jessie Playle
Linda Thain	Ken Payne	Edward Murbuch
Dallas Croskrey	Gary McGovern	Lee Volesky
Jim Wright	Randall Browning	Scott Patterson
Patricia Liacos	Brian Froehlich	Dennis Short
Jennifer Johnson	Justin Iverson	Gordon Redding
Sean Burrows	Ben Ball	Shari Howard
Thomas Everitt	William Green	Jim Bittner

Letter 21 (continued)

Curt Thompson
Joel Daniells
Jeff Nearing
Randy Copler
Marc Cantrell
Mark Funk
Joseph Shields
Jerry Bey
Keith Cauvel
Thomas Crawford
Kim Turley
Lee Allen Agee
Bonnie Belden
Mark Cottingham
Anthony Brown
Larry Trickler
Dwight Daniells
Larry Stenson
Ted Graeber
John Ives
Mike Hansen
Jeff Lineberger
Royce Cuneo
Douglas Schertzer
Edward Lamb
Guy Ballard
Dirk McClenden
Leonard Adzeus
Susan Harman
Sandra Huhs
Sandra Casner

Form Letter 22

Russell Nickell
C. Dorene Bendickson
Cynthia J. Eddy

Form Letter 23

Kenneth Lloyd
Richard Mulcahy
Larry K. Dewitz
Susan R. McGriff

